MONDAY
July 3, 2023

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KARNATAKA ASSEMBLY

BJP yet to name the Leader of Opposition

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CLASSIC AT LORD'S

Big Ben's timeless knock goes in vain

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Ramping up infra on Pangong lake bank

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Chilling effect over online free speech

Karnataka High Court judgment is ominous

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EYEING 24TH SLAM

Djokovic seeks eighth Wimbledon crown

SPORT » PAGE 15

NEARBY

Budget session begins today

BENGALURU
The ruling Congress and Opposition BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) are set for the first major showdown after the former took over the reins of power in the State as the Budget session gets under way from Monday. » Page 4

'Will accept caste census report'

BENGALURU
Accusing the former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy of not accepting the State Commission for Backward Classes report on caste census, CM Siddaramaiah said the Congress government would accept the report. » Page 4

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGES 6 & 7

Ajit Pawar splits NCP, returns as Deputy CM; 8 more join Cabinet

Sharad Pawar says he does not support the move; his nephew says he has the NCP's full support; drama unspooled shortly after the latter convened an urgent meeting with senior NCP legislators at his residence; Supriya Sule left the meeting early

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

In a dramatic turn of events which followed months of speculation that he was cosying up to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar led a split in the party and joined hands with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on Sunday afternoon.

Though he claimed to have the support of all MLAs of the party, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, his uncle, made it clear that he did not back the move.

Mr. Ajit Pawar took oath as the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra for the fifth time, setting a record for the largest number of appointments to this position since it was created in 1978.

New chapter: Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais congratulates the newly sworn-in Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar. PTI

He will share the post with Devendra Fadnavis of the BJP, who holds a battery of portfolios, including Home and Finance.

In a hurriedly conducted ceremony at the Raj Bhavan, eight NCP legislators – Chhagan Bhujbal, the NCP supremo's close confidant Dilip Walse-Patil, Hasan Mushrif, Aatram Dharamraobaba Bhagwantrao, the late BJP leader Gopinath Munde's nephew Dhananjay Munde, Aditi Tatkare, Sanjay Bansode, and Anil Patil – were inducted as Ministers in what is now known as the "Shinde-Fadnavis-Pawar government".

Ms. Tatkare, daughter of Lok Sabha member Sunil Tatkare, became the first woman Minister in the Shinde government. Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal and the NCP's newly appointed working president and former Union Minister, Praful Patel, were present at the Raj Bhavan event.

The development comes shortly after Mr. Ajit Pawar convened an urgent meeting with senior NCP legislators at his official residence at which Mr. Sharad Pawar's daughter, Lok Sabha member Supriya Sule, was present. However, Ms. Sule left the meeting early and her cousin immediately headed to the Raj Bhavan, where Chief Minister Eknath Shinde arrived with Mr. Fadnavis and four or five of his Cabinet colleagues.

'Will rebuild party'

Mr. Sharad Pawar, who is in Pune, noted the situation was not novel. "This may be new for some but not for me. My aim will be to repeat the scene of 1980 where except for six of my 58 MLAs, all had deserted me, but I rebuilt the party from scratch by touring Maharashtra; and I will be touring the State again," he said.

While sources in the NCP and BJP told *The Hindu* that the junior Pawar has the "solid backing" of 36 of the NCP's 53 MLAs, the new Deputy Chief Minister insisted that all of the party's MLAs are standing united with him.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Four killed in fresh violence in foothill districts of Manipur

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

At least four men were killed in a fresh round of violence in Manipur on Sunday. The police said that three villagers in Bishnupur, adjoining Churachandpur, were killed in an unprovoked attack, and a village volunteer was killed when the Kuki-Zo tribal villages of Langza and Chinglangmei were attacked in retaliation.

Superintendent of Police, Bishnupur, Heisnam Balram Singh said that around five minutes past midnight, bunkers set up by villagers near Khujuma Tabi, a Meitei village, were attacked by armed miscreants.

"Three village guards were killed by the miscreants who are suspected to have come from the hill areas. By the time the police reached the spot, they had left but took vantage positions and an exchange of fire took place," Mr. Singh told *The Hindu*. The village runs along the State Highway. Following the incident, a large number of agitated people came out and stormed the nearby Kuki villages of Langza and Chinglangmei in Churachandpur. A village volunteer was killed then.

While police say the Meitei were attacked first, Kuki villagers claim the opposite.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Rein in Governor or face T.N.'s ire: CM to Centre

B. Kolappan
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Sunday warned that the Union government would face the ire of the people of the State if it did not rein in Governor R.N. Ravi.

Mr. Stalin reiterated the DMK's position that the Governor's post was redundant.

He also accused the BJP of targeting DMK Ministers through Central agencies because he was taking steps to forge a national alliance, inclusive of the Congress, against the BJP.

INTERVIEW ON » PAGE 11

Deficient monsoon triggers fears of agrarian crisis

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The fear of an agrarian crisis again gripping the State is looming large owing to the possibility of agricultural production taking a hit as farmers in most parts of North Karnataka are reluctant to take up kharif sowing because of scanty rainfall and poor storage position in the reservoir.

Prolonged dry spell

Though the situation is slightly better in southern region, where about 47 per cent of the targeted area has been sown, farmers here are staring at stunted crop growth and lower yield due to the prolonged dry spell and delay in the onset of the south-west monsoon.

Such is the seriousness of prolonged dry spell and deficient monsoon in North Karnataka that only 2% of the sowing target has been met so far in Yadgir district while Kalaburagi district has seen 16 per cent sowing so far.

In Kalaburagi district, some of the taluks have reported sowing of only 1 to 3 per cent of targeted area.

FULL REPORT » PAGE 4

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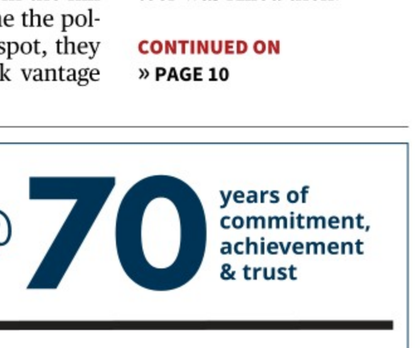

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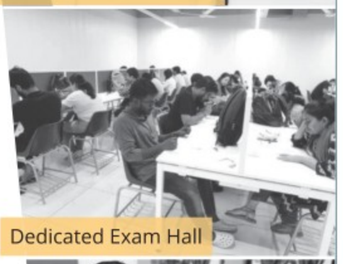

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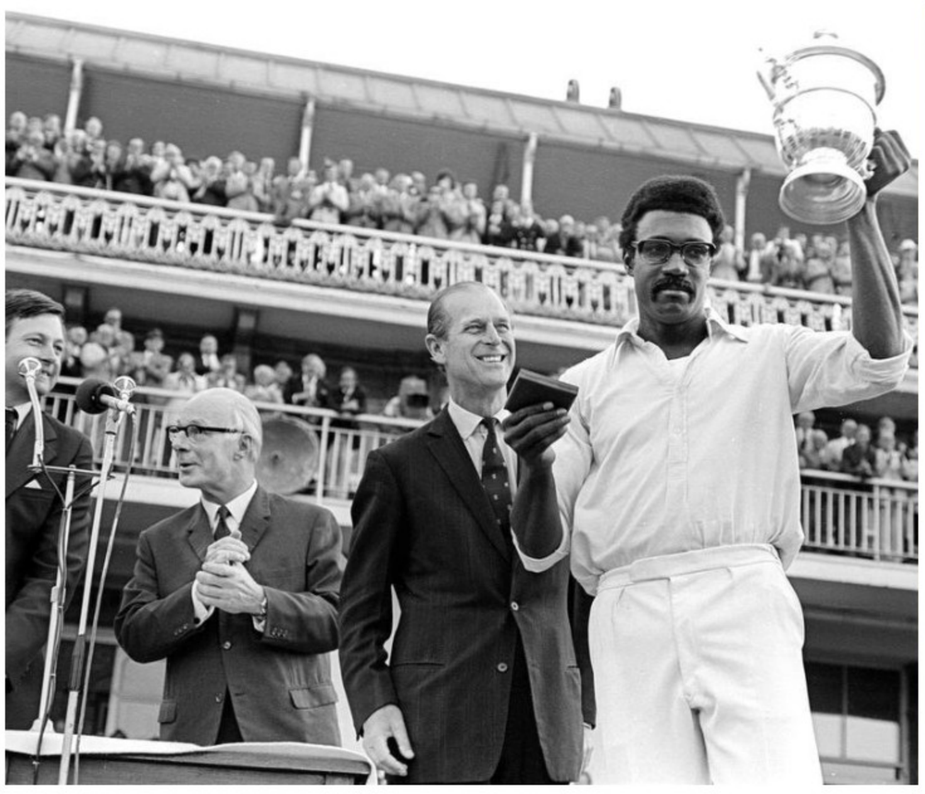
An ODI World Cup sans West Indies provides a grim pointer to sport's ruthless jabs at destiny

The once-celebrated team's fall from grace was slow in progress but fixed about its certainty; the loss to Scotland, in the qualifiers at Harare, was just the final nail in an old, weather-beaten coffin

CRICKET

K.C. Vijaya Kumar



Glory and ignominy: From the highs of the triumphant campaigns in 1975 and 1979, the West Indies has gradually slipped in the past few decades to eventually fall apart and miss out on a World Cup spot. GETTY IMAGES & ICC

Sports fandom at the highest level is often love soaring at extreme levels. It is unconditional, obsessive, moody, prone to ecstasy and equally vulnerable to heartbreaks. And from Saturday night, it was time to nurse a bleeding heart as the West Indies failed to qualify for the ICC World Cup scheduled to be held later this year in India. The loss to Scotland, in the World Cup qualifiers at Harare, was the final nail in an old, weather-beaten coffin.

The West Indies to cricket is what Brazil and Argentina are to football. These are teams that soar above the narrow confines of nationality, draw fans from across the universe and play a brand of sport that is elemental, aesthetic, have the sweetness of hot chocolate, the spice of a Peri Peri sauce and above all gift us a sense of wonder.

Unfortunately time waits for none, trends wane, collective attributes vanish, people change and teams succumb to that old cliche – the glorious uncertainties of sport. With the West Indies, the fall from grace wasn't sudden, this was a free-fall but in slow motion. Perhaps, the first stumble was in 1983 when Kapil's Devils humbled Clive Lloyd's men in the World Cup final at Lord's.

First time

And 40 years later, the West Indies, twice champion in the World Cup (1975 and 1979), will miss cricket's premier championship for the first time. For most cricket fans, who are not from the Caribbean Isles, the West Indies is their second favourite team. There is an ease and fun that the West Indies bequeaths to the willow game and that swagger is what drew us in, or at least a generation used to black and white televisions, telegrams, and for which twitter was nothing but the chirping of birds.

The meltdown in the current qualifying tournament in Zimbabwe may look sudden but this has been a death, slow in progress but fixed about its certainty. Yes, taxes and death are inevitable but sporting units tend to defy this as personnel change and the flame is carried forward. It just reiterates that old saying 'Individuals may go but institutions will stay'. And the West Indies was an institution. Marinated in the musical calypso from those distant islands, separate nations but united for cricket and promising sporting utopia, the West Indies now has been reduced to a dirge while our tear glands go into overdrive.

Those islands that threw up kinetic batters, fearsome speedsters and athletic fielders also offered us lessons in anthropology thanks to its mix of a few colonial masters and the offspring of indentured labour from Africa and India. You get Vivian Richards proud about his 'Black' identity and Rastafarian moorings, and you also get a Shivnarine Chanderpaul devoted to the Hindu pantheon. Above all you get a Michael Holding, 'Whispering Death' as umpire Dickie Bird described him, a fast bowler who evolved into an elder statesman acutely conscious about race and the attendant prejudices.

The West Indies wasn't just about cricket, it was also a link to a diversity forged through a tough colonial past, while also breaking into a belly-aching laugh, dancing steps and glasses brimming with rum. This was sport, truth and paradise, it is just that the lights got switched off with a finality from Harare. Perhaps Balwinder Singh Sandhu's castling of Gordon Greenidge at Lord's or later Kapil Dev's jaw-dropping catch off Richards are those initial moments when the Windies began to falter and yet there was always some hope through Brian Lara, Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose.

A phenomenal squad was now throwing up a few rare individuals for us to cherish. We clutched at those helplines, hoping that a turnaround is just around the corner. There were glimmers of hope. The title triumphs in the Champions Trophy (once) and the T20 World Cup (twice) and the rousing flight of Chris Gayle, Kieron Pollard and Dwayne Bravo in the Indian Premier League (IPL) were seen as dollops of hope promising cricketing nirvana. Just that these were ripples in a lost cause.

The lure of football, athletics and basketball, especially the NBA from the United States, has constantly attracted the finest talent from the Caribbean islands. For every Usain Bolt thrilling our senses, there are many who just hop overseas in their quest for sporting riches and stability in life. Even cricketers have leapt across continents, be it a Devon Malcolm before and a Jofra Archer now. If England enjoyed these bonuses, the IPL too found an extra spark from West Indian stars even if that old 'club vs country' debate was raised.

Tiny islands, split by the sea and united by a shared love for cricket, may be seen as an anachronism in this era of self-obsession and a lack of empathy, but the West Indies bucked those trends until its cricket lost its moorings. After the gut-wrenching losses against the Netherlands and Scotland in Zimbabwe, skipper Shai Hope said that the team can only go one way from now and that is up. It is a good thought to have but reality can be grim.

Dearth of talent

There is a dearth of talent within the West Indian cricketing veins and even if a good player emerges, the temptation of franchises from the cash-rich T20 leagues leads to a distraction and an eventual burnout. When Hope's men lost their hope against Scotland, it was ironical that in the Ashes Test at Lord's, England was dishing out a West Indian technique to silence the Aussie batters: short-pitched bowling that caused awkward responses from the stunned batters. The imitators prospered at London while the originals wilted at Harare.

Earlier, runs and wickets against the West Indies was the ultimate barometer of cricketing excellence but over the last few decades that trope has been discarded. It is now seen as a pliable opposition, easy on the eye, good for the opposition egos and so much so that the men from those islands were preferred as the rivals for Sachin Tendulkar's farewell Test series in 2013!

The West Indies Cricket Board needs to step up and the old grievances of island-rivalries or the latest grouses centred around poor pay need to be addressed. To see a World Cup without the West Indies is a grim pointer to sport's ruthless jabs at destiny. Maybe Walsh could have done an R. Ashwin and run out non-striker Salim Jaffer in that crucial 1987 World Cup game in Pakistan. The former champion subsequently crashed out of that championship.

Or maybe we didn't read the tea leaves then, lost in our love for a splendid bunch, intrinsic to our nostalgia. It is time to see some old YouTube videos to observe Richards and Malcolm Marshall, and many others. And yes, pass those tissues, the heart breaks, the eyes mist, and it is never easy.

Decline has been gradual, even before this current batch started playing: Bishop

Press Trust of India
HARARE

Day of gloom: The faces of the West Indies players says it all. AP

West Indies cricket's "gradual decline" reminds Ian Bishop of those big business entities of yesteryears which didn't evolve with time and perhaps will never regain its lost glory.

Bishop, a fearsome fast bowler of late '80s till mid '90s, is hurt like any other Caribbean cricketer after watching Shai Hope's team being thrashed by Scotland as the former champions failed to qualify for the ODI World Cup for the first time in 48 years.

Bishop believes that it will be wrong to point fingers at the current crop of West Indies players for this deterioration started way back.

"It has been a gradual decline. I've always said this pre-dates this group of players. We haven't played consistently good ODI cricket against the top nations for perhaps a decade now. The T20 team, after having been two-time champions, they have slid," Bishop told *ESPN Cricinfo*.

The 55-year-old, who has 161 Test and 118 ODI wickets, believes that lack of vision has been one of the biggest reasons that has led to this day.

"So like big corporations who were at one time at the peak of their powers, and then through, I suppose, a lack of vision or whatever you want to call it, they disappeared off the business scene, (and that is what has happened) for West Indies cricket, two-time world champions, who popularised the field for ODI cricket," he said.

This is the lowest you can go: Brathwaite

Reuters

Former West Indies captain Carlos Brathwaite said the team had reached their lowest point after failing to qualify for the 50-over World Cup for the first time, but signs of their decline have been evident for a while now.

"It has been a long time coming," Brathwaite, a key member of the team's Twenty20 World Cup success in 2016, said in quotes published on the ICC's website. "Obviously, another format, T20, missed out (on the Super 12 stage) as well last year. So in white-ball cricket, there have been troubles in the past. I think this is the lowest you can go."

It's showtime!

From seasoned champions looking to create history to rising stars hoping to make a mark on the big stage, the air is heavy with anticipation of tennis at its finest. Wimbledon, arguably the most prestigious of the Slams, kicks off at The All England Club on Monday.
Will Djokovic eat yet another blade of grass? Will Alcaraz, already trying hard to shift the focus off him, whisk the trophy away? Will homeboy Murray's experience pay off? Will 'sentimental favourite' Venus push the envelope further? The 136th edition – which will incidentally be King Charles III's first event – is set to be a royal feast for the fans. GETTY IMAGES

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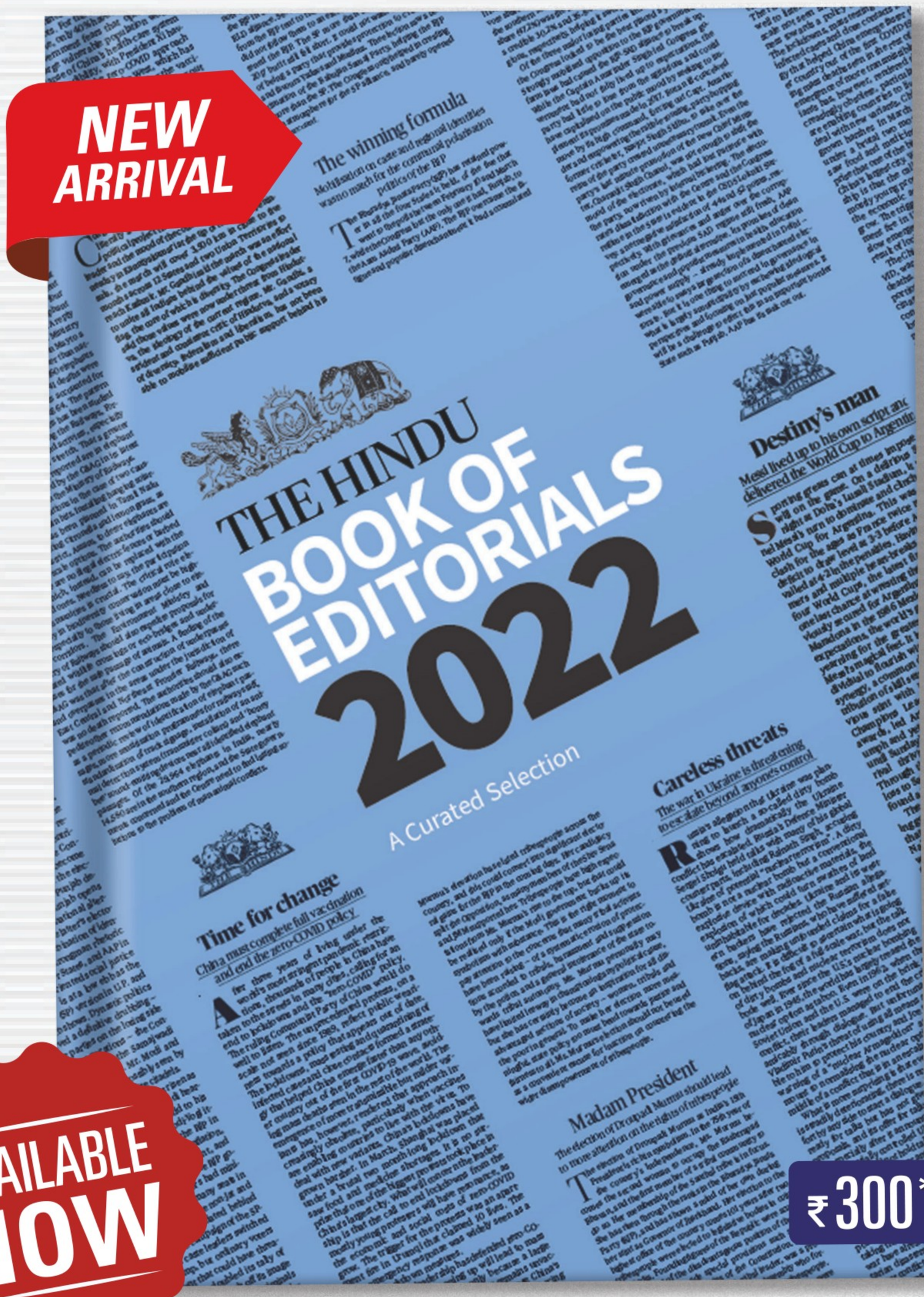

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Students up in arms over placement fee charged by colleges in city

However, managements justify it by saying that there is a cost involved in getting companies to colleges

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

A file photo of students staging a protest against colleges charging exorbitant fees in Bengaluru.

Recently an engineering college student in the city posted on social media about how the college was charging 2.1% of the cost to company (CTC) secured by students as a placement fee. The post got widely shared, and many others too shared similar accounts.

Several students who spoke to *The Hindu* said colleges told them about the fee only when the placement drive began. It ranges between ₹3,000 and ₹7,000, depending on the number of offers, or in some colleges, between 2% and 5% of their first month's salary. If students don't pay, colleges often withhold their marks cards and other certificates.

Common practice

"They (college management) told us that we have to bear the cost of getting the companies to visit and for making arrangements for food, computers, etc. I paid around ₹4,500," said a student who recently finished her M.Tech course at B.M.S. College of Engineering in Basavanagudi.

A few others who finished their B.E. course at the same institution also confirmed that they had to pay a placement fee. A staff member of BMS College of Engineering said the fee was being collected from students every year. "As trainers have to be brought in from outside, they should be paid an honorarium and provided a few other things. That is why this fee is charged."

A student from an engineering college in Rajarajeshwarinagar said the placement fee there was 5% of the CTC. Students who bag multiple offers have to pay per offer.

Colleges' stand

Colleges defended the fee, saying the practice has been around for many years as students have to be trained according to industry requirements.

"A few years ago, companies used to have training programmes for up to three months. But now, they need them to work from day one. Hence, we must prepare them with skill sets from the first year itself, and that needs a lot of human resources," said Ashwath, principal, Bangalore Institute of Technology.

He also said the fee per offer is charged to ensure that the same student does not receive multiple offers and that the opportunities are divided equally.

Parents unhappy

Meanwhile, parents expressed their displeasure. "When they advertise that they provide 100% placements, we naturally assume they will train our children with the fees we pay every year. Why do we have to pay something additional to bring students up to industry standards? Is not that the whole point of studying for four years?" questioned Aarathi G., a parent of two engineering students.

Withholding certificates

An official from Visvesvaraya Technological University said collecting placement fees is not against the rules, but withholding of certificates and marks cards is illegal.

"As placement is something which is not included in the curriculum, an external fee is collected to train students. However, we have sent a circular to all the affiliated colleges saying that they should not withhold any certificates under any circumstances," they said.

IIIT-B working towards enhancing 5G-Advanced and 6G networks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The International Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore (IIIT-B) is involved in the development of Reconfigurable Intelligent Surfaces (RIS), which will have immense potential to extend the communication range and enhance the quality of base stations, in 5G-Advanced and also in the forthcoming 6G networks.

In the era of 5G and 6G wireless networks and higher frequency bands, the coverage range of traditional base stations undergoes a reduction. To address this challenge, IIIT-Bangalore is at the forefront of exploring RIS.

According to the Institute, RIS technology also enables the creation of Smart Radio Environments (SREs), which can be tailored to specific use cases such as the Industrial Internet of Things.

Furthermore, by combining RIS technology with other futuristic advancements, IIIT-Bangalore envisions significant enhancements in data rates, coverage, and energy efficiency.

IIIT-Bangalore envisions significant enhancements in data rates, coverage, and energy efficiency. GETTY IMAGES

In addition, IIIT-Bangalore is also actively engaged in the development and design of a novel prototype for RIS-aided communication.

5G use-case testbed lab

IIIT-B is also leading the efforts to establish a 5G use-case testbed lab, focusing on Urban Management and Health.

This lab will serve as a learning environment for approximately 150 students and start-ups annually and will be integrated into advanced graduate-level courses covering various topics like Mobile Computing, Wireless Communication, and Network Function Virtualization.

"In IIIT-Bangalore COMET Foundation, professors in the Networking and Communication domain are actively involved in, 5G, Open Radio Access Network, 5G-Advanced and 6G-related R&D and standardization efforts, in collaboration with premier academic institutions across the country," said Prof. Debabarata Das, Director of IIIT-Bangalore on Sunday.

332 students graduate

IIIT-B also hosted its 23rd annual convocation on Sunday. At the ceremony 332 students graduated from the institute. The students were from various academic programmes -115 graduates from the Integrated Master of Technology program, 174 from the Master of Technology program, 17 from the Master of Science in Digital Society program, 15 from the Master of Science by Research program, and 11 dedicated PhD scholars.

READERS' MAIL

Introduce digital payment option

Sir, - Lalbagh is one of the few lung spaces in Bengaluru and it attracts a lot of visitors. However, only cash is accepted for entrance ticket. Digital payment needs to be introduced as another payment option not only in Lalbagh but also at all other tourism spots and for government services.

G. Padmanabhan,
Bengaluru

Excess charge for parking

Sir, - Parking attendants at many of the city's metro stations demand excess money from vehicle owners using the facility. At the National College Station, for instance, where I parked my two-wheeler recently, the attendant issued me a digital slip and collected ₹30 beforehand. When I argued that the charge seemed very high as I was parking only for a maximum of four hours, he said the rates had gone

FILE PHOTO

up. There was no rate card displayed anywhere around.

Back home, when I checked on the BMRCL website, I found the charge fixed by it to be only ₹15 for the first four hours. Clearly, the attendant is fleecing the gullible vehicle owners. The situation might be no different at other metro stations. BMRCL authorities should immediately look into the matter as charging more than what is prescribed would only discourage commuters from using the facility.

Kamal Laddha,
Bengaluru

Readers can write to letters.bangalore @thehindu.co.in

BBMP yet to complete asphalting of a 400- metre stretch

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The BBMP is saying that it can resume work only after the monsoon ends. FILE PHOTO

Nearly a year on after it took up work to relay a 400-metre stretch of road - 11th cross, Chinnappanahalli - used by at least 2,000 residents daily, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) hasn't been able to complete the work, even as it has abruptly halted the work mid-way. After missing three deadlines, local civic officials said work will re-start only after the monsoon season.

The road in Doddanekkundi (Ward 85) was first laid in 2015 by a developer before it was handed over to the BBMP. Ever since this 400-metre stretch came under the ambit of the civic body the road was not maintained well, residents allege. What has added to the woes of the residents is digging by multiple agencies for laying cables, water pipes, and others.

This has also led to several accidents. A woman had to undergo ligament surgery after she fell from her scooter while negotiating large potholes.

In August 2022, the BBMP took up the road work but failed to complete the work after laying a layer of jelly stones. Indira Belde, an activist and member of the Bengaluru Navanirmana Party said when the residents demanded speedy completion the officials promised implementation by Diwali. But the civic authority missed three deadlines - Dec 2022, March 2023, and May 2023. . Paresh Kumar, whose wife met with an accident on this road said, "My spouse sometimes complains of back pain even now. For no reason, the work was delayed and the machines that arrived on this road are still parked here. ."

Ganesh Chandrasekharan, another resident of the road, said that they were suffering on a daily basis due to this bad road.

The parents fear that children may fall from back of the bikes. The road is very unsafe for two-wheelers. If the BBMP could not complete the work in one year, how can they collect tax from the residents who are forced to use bad roads. The lethargy of the BBMP is glaringly visible.

A local BBMP official said the work was stopped due to elections and now with monsoon civic body cannot restart the work. After the season ends, the work will be resumed, he said.

Window pane of Dharwad-Bengaluru Vande Bharat damaged

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A window pane of the newly launched Dharwad-Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express was damaged by miscreants who pelted stones near Davanagere on Saturday, according to South Western Railway (SWR) officials.

Officials confirmed that there were no injuries to the passengers in the incident. A senior official said that the incident happened after the train left from Davanagere at around 3.30 p.m. Railway Protection Force (RPF) has started investigating the matter, according to officials.

On June 28, Dharwad-Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express train was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually, and started its commercial operations the following day.

Earlier in February, two window panes of Chennai-Mysuru Vande Bharat Express (20607) were damaged after stones were pelted on the moving train. The incident occurred between Krishnarajapuram and Bengaluru Cantonment Railway Station. No passengers were injured. This incident had also led to the increase in patrolling of the areas where such stone throwing incidents were reported. This is not the first instance of stone pelting at Vande Bharat trains. Recently, such cases were reported in Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, and Katihar district of Bihar.

"Pelting stones at trains is a non-bailable offence. As per Section 152 of the Railways Act, if any person throws stones at a train and such an act is likely to endanger the safety of passengers on the train, he shall be punishable with life imprisonment or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years," a official said.

The SWR has appealed to the public and passengers to inform them about stone pelting incidents by contacting the toll-free helpline number 139.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated July 3, read about what is slowing down the expansion of piped natural gas network in the city.

Man loses ₹20K after sharing OTP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The R.R. Nagar police have registered a case against an unknown person who posed as the customer care staff of a food delivery platform, got the OTP from a businessman after the delivery, and made away with ₹19,200 in two transactions last Sunday.

The victim, Jayaprakash B., realised the fraudulent transactions and raised the complaint with customer care, who assured him the amount would be returned. But, after five days when they failed to do it, he filed a complaint.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JUL. 03	
RISE	05:58 SET 18:50
RISE	18:59 SET 05:27
TUESDAY, JUL. 04	
RISE	05:58 SET 18:50
RISE	20:01 SET 06:33
WEDNESDAY, JUL. 05	
RISE	05:58 SET 18:50
RISE	20:58 SET 07:41

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	24
Mysuru	32	21
Bengaluru	30	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm but humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain or thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain or thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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Gruha Jyothi: Minister clarifies confusion on billing

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Gruha Jyothi, a guarantee scheme of the Congress government under which 200 units of free electricity will be given to households, came into force on Saturday.

There was confusion regarding the scheme to which Energy Minister K.J. George clarified that if a customer enrolled for the scheme within July 25, he will be able to avail himself of free electricity for the month of July.

Clarification given

"Please be informed that if you enrol for #GruhaJyothiScheme within July 25, you will be able to avail free electricity for the month of July, similarly if you enrol for #GruhaJyothi scheme within August 25, you will be able to avail of free electricity for the month of August and so on, if your monthly consumption is under 200 units as an average. The meter reading cycle runs from 25th to 25th of every month," he said in a Facebook post.

> If a customer enrols for the scheme before July 25, he will be able to get free electricity for the month of July.
>
> **K.J. GEORGE**
> Minster of Energy

"We would encourage you to enroll under the scheme at the earliest to ensure you benefit fully from this. Please remember, this enrollment process is to be done in your own interest. We request you not to delay," he further said.

On Saturday Mr. George said that the registration for the scheme is going on, and about 86.5 lakh consumers have registered.

FIR registered against animal rescue centre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bagaluru police have registered an FIR against a city-based animal rescue centre following the mysterious death of 13 stray dogs they had rescued for rehabilitation and care.

Based on the complaint by Dr. Radhika Thyagaraju, animal activist, the police have registered a case against Charlies Animals Rescue Center (CARE), at Mittaganahalli cross charging them under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

Police enquiry

The incident came to light when Dr. Radhika noticed the staff of CARE staff members had brought the corpses of 13 stray dogs to the Summanahalli crematorium on May 26 this year. She alerted the police and stopped the cremation demanding the post-mortem certificate to ascertain the cause of death. CARE staff were reportedly taken to the police station and samples drawn from the corpses were sent to Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for analysis.

Inquiries revealed that CARE has tied up with the BBMP for the rescue, rehabilitation, and treatment of rescued stray dogs. The police are now awaiting the FSL reports to take further action.

Heavy rains lash city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Moderate to heavy rainfall accompanied by gushing winds lashed the city inconveniencing motorists who ventured out for weekend shopping. While the BBMP teams were on standby, there were no major rain-related incidents. The BBMP control room said, besides a few roads where flooding was reported, and falling off branches, no major flooding happened in vulnerable areas .

According to IMD data, rain lashed Sadashivanagar, J.P. Nagar, and other parts of the city.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client has negotiated and agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its owners. All persons having any claim against the Schedule Property or any part thereof are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office within **07 days** from the date of publication hereof, failing which our clients shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

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Item No 1:
All the piece and parcel of the Property bearing **Survey Number 23,** measuring to an extent of 4 Acres 36 Guntas, situated at **Avalahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District** and bounded on the:
East by: Land in Survey Number 28, **West by:** Remaining Land in Sy. No 23, **North by:** Kodathi Village Boundary, **South by:** Land in Survey Number 77.

Item No 2:
All that piece and parcel of the land bearing **Survey Number 23**, measuring to an extent of 1 Acre 32 Guntas, situated at **Avalahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District,** and bounded on:
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Genome-sequencing screening for babies unlocks blueprint of health

Newborn screening programmes are now in vogue in different countries, and have been deployed in India as well. They are based on the fact that an early diagnosis could allow use of effective treatments and save an infant from death or disability; in the U.S., healthcare workers screen for around 30 diseases, including treatable ones

Vinod Scaria
Sridhar Sivasubbu

A technician prepares to sequence genetic material at a research facility. NCI/UNSPLASH

Imagine a situation where a severely ill newborn is in the ICU and a fast, effective diagnosis could enable effective treatment - a scenario that plays out practically in every neonatal ICU on a regular basis. The situation is complicated when the disease affecting the baby is not common and known to many clinicians, and could be buried in medical textbooks or databases.

There are 6,000 or so genetic diseases, of which around 3,500 diseases have been documented, and a much smaller number have had their molecular and/or genetic defects mapped.

A significant number of diseases in the population are also treatable but are nevertheless prevalent.

Newborn screening programmes now in vogue in different countries, and which have been deployed in some states in India as well, are based on the fact that an early diagnosis could allow us to use effective treatments and save an infant from death or disability.

For example, in the U.S., healthcare workers screen for around 30 diseases, including treatable ones of the blood, the endocrine system, and metabolism.

Then again, in many cases, they lose the window of opportunity because standard newborn-screening programmes are limited on the menu of genetic tests they cover.

Thanks to recent advances, genomic-sequencing is now available, accessible, and in many ways more affordable. It also offers a much better coverage of genetic diseases to screen for. Importantly, this could help healthcare workers make a fast and effective diagnosis, helped by the fact that sequencing is also a 'single' test, versus the multitude of tests performed as part of routine newborn-screening.

Why is it important?

The rarity of many genetic diseases, the narrow window of opportunity, the long diagnostic paths, and the unfortunate deaths of ill babies makes it very difficult to document and understand these diseases. However, population-scale genome-sequencing efforts have provided insights into the prevalence of many of these diseases in an unbiased manner.

Discoveries in the past three decades have also allowed a small but significant number of diseases to be treated or managed effectively. This in turn opened up a newer opportunity: to diagnose and treat genetic diseases through genomic-sequencing in newborn babies, especially sick ones.

Researchers at the Rady Children's Institute, led by Stephen Kingsmore, earlier showed that whole-genome sequencing could provide a much higher number of positive cases with a diagnosis, around 40% (compared with standard genetic tests at 10%), with 26% of the diagnosed children benefiting from reduced severity of illness due to the rapid diagnosis and, consequently, a significant reduction in the cost of treatments.

Another report a year later from researchers in the U.K. also reported numbers consistent with previous reports.

Why screen healthy babies?

The benefits of sequencing may not just be limited to babies who are unwell. The BabySeq project funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health is one of the most comprehensive studies to evaluate sequencing of newborns for routine newborn care.

One recent study conducted by the project, and published in the *American Journal of Human Genetics*, evaluated the sequences of 127 apparently healthy and 32 sick infants. It found that just over 10% of infants had an unanticipated risk of genetic diseases. When these infants were followed up for three to five years, sequences revealed the causes of disease in three infants; in the remaining 14, a better picture of the risk made way for better medical surveillance.

The sequencing also warranted additional at-risk family members of 13 infants to have their genes sequenced. Three of them benefited from subsequent surgeries.

> As the vast potential of rapid newborn whole-genome sequencing unfolds, we stand at a crossroads of hope and introspection. There is no doubt that this technology will help clinicians detect genetic disorders

Another recent study, published in *JAMA Network Open*, surveyed over 200 genetic experts. Most of them firmly believed that sequencing babies should be part of routine care.

So it is not surprising that the U.K. National Health Services recently launched a nationwide programme to sequence 100,000 sick babies.

Need for speed

The fight for who can sequence the fastest started with the first Guinness World Records entry: in 26 hours, by Dr. Kingsmore & co., a mark his team broke in 2018 for a time of 19.5 hours. In 2021, Euan Ashley and team got there in just over 5 hours and 2 minutes

Records apart, a large study with more than 100 children with different disease complexities, and published in 2019, suggested a median time for sequencing, clinical interpretation and reporting of just over 20 hours, suggesting the approach could have far-reaching impact in clinical settings.

With technological advances, including better AI-based tools to assist clinical decisions, rapid sequencing is likely to become a diagnostic mainstay for unwell infants in clinics.

Ethics and hope

Newborn whole genome sequencing presents multiple ethical challenges. First: the issue of disclosing and managing incidental and secondary findings raises concerns about privacy and the psychological impact on families. Updated recommendations by the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics regarding secondary findings could help deal with incidental findings.

The equitable distribution of benefits and burdens associated with accessing and utilising this technology also invoke issues of justice and fairness .

As the vast potential of rapid newborn whole-genome sequencing unfolds, we stand at a crossroads of hope and introspection. There is no doubt that this technology will help clinicians with the means to detect rare genetic disorders, anticipate susceptibility to disease, and give them the evidence required to prescribe better treatments and shape a healthier future. Yet we must also tread carefully, considering the delicate balance between benefits and harm.

If we do, then it may not be far-fetched to imagine that rapid whole-genome sequencing will be the right of every child in the years to come.

The authors are scientists at the CSIR Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology. All opinions expressed here are personal.

(This article is part of a fortnightly column exploring contemporary concepts and issues in genetics.)

THE GIST

Thanks to recent advances, genomic-sequencing is now available, accessible, and in many ways more affordable. It also offers a much better coverage of genetic diseases to screen for. Importantly, this could help healthcare workers make a fast and effective diagnosis, helped by the fact that sequencing is also a 'single' test, versus the multitude of tests performed as part of routine newborn-screening

Whole-genome sequencing could provide a much higher number of positive cases with a diagnosis, around 40% (compared to standard genetic tests at 10%), with 26% of the diagnosed children benefiting from reduced severity of illness due to the rapid diagnosis and, consequently, a significant reduction in the cost of treatments

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BIG SHOT

By some accounts, the megalodon shark was one of the largest marine predators to have ever lived, 23-3.6 million years ago, growing to up to 50 feet long and weighing up to 59 tonnes. New research has found that these sharks may have been warm-blooded, maintaining a body temperature that was up to 7 degrees Celsius warmer than the surrounding water. GETTY IMAGES

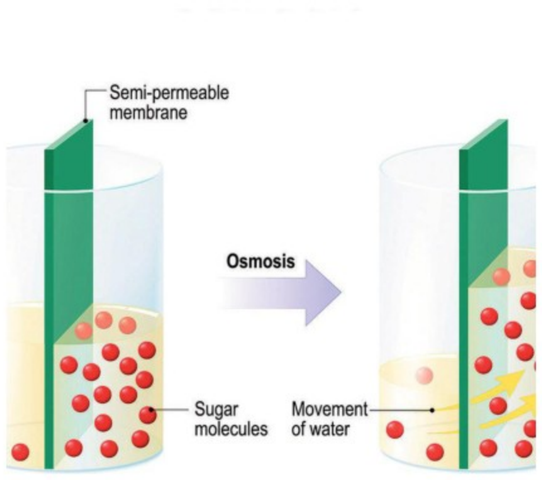
WHAT IS IT?

Osmosis: fluid transfer

Ocean currents, subatomic particles, galaxies – almost everything is moving from one place to another. There are different kinds of movement, with different purposes. One type of movement is osmosis, where a fluid moves from a place of higher concentration to a lower concentration through a semipermeable membrane.

For example, you fill a container with a concentrated sugar solution on one side and a diluted sugar solution on the other of a semipermeable membrane. Water molecules will travel from the diluted solution to the concentrated one through the membrane until the concentration of water is equal on both sides. This is osmosis.

A German plant physiologist named Wilhelm Pfeffer first thoroughly studied osmosis in 1877, after various other studies by other scholars on leaky membranes.



Water passing through a semi-permeable membrane into a region of higher sugar concentration. GETTY IMAGES

This process is incredibly important in biology, where liquids move from one part of an organism to another through cellular membranes that are semipermeable. In trees, osmosis is part of a pumping system that transports water and nutrients up from the roots to the leaves.

You can observe osmosis in many real-life scenarios, such as in the swelling of raisins or other seeds when they are soaked in water, and in the pruning or wrinkling of your fingers after taking a long bath.

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Dangerous digging, the biggest threat to piped gas network expansion in Bengaluru

Poor coordination issues had come to the fore yet again in March 2023, when a leaking gas pipeline triggered blasts in three houses in the city's HSR Layout

Rasheed Kappan
BENGALURU

Safer, cheaper, and far easier to use than LPG cylinders, piped natural gas (PNG) should have spread its network far and wide across Bengaluru by now. But poor multi-agency coordination triggering dangerous leaks, glaring awareness gaps, and lack of an official push have all slowed down the expansion of the network.

The city's underground is a chaotic maze of sewage and water lines, electric and OFC cables. To make any sense of the crisscrossing lines, active coordination between multiple utility agencies is critical. The entry of GAIL Gas, with its network of high and low-pressure pipelines, meant that any digging by any agency had to follow a well-crafted standard operating procedure (SOP).

GAIL India insists that its sound and tested SOP has been shared with all the utility agencies. The SOP mandates that the agencies take permission from the gas utility before undertaking repair/maintenance work and immediately alert it in case of a leak. The agencies include the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the Bangalore Electricity Company Limited (Bescom) and the multiple OFC cable companies.

The trenchless method is adopted to bypass the other underground utility lines.

Three persons were seriously injured after a GAIL pipeline broke and gas leaked into a couple of houses, causing an explosion, in HSR layout 7th sector in Bengaluru. Workers of the BWSSB were digging the road when the pipeline broke.

Poor multi-agency coordination

Poor coordination issues had come to the fore yet again in March 2023 when a leaking gas pipeline triggered blasts in three houses in the city's HSR Layout. It turned out that the utility agencies had neither obtained the mandated permission from GAIL nor reported the damage in time. If alerted, the gas firm could plug the leak quickly. But when the frequency of such leaks are at least twice a week as reported, the danger could amplify.

This implies that no lessons were learnt from the Whitefield leakage in October 2018. The incident on ITPL Main Road led to widespread panic amongst locals and commuters. Investigations confirmed that the Metro contractor tasked with the drilling work had failed to take the necessary permission from GAIL and fled the scene when things went out of control. Traffic on the entire stretch was blocked for hours. A GAIL Gas India spokesperson recalls that the contractor had failed to intimate it well in advance. "Besides, the contractor had been blacklisted before. He had done it in a number of instances in the past.

He was given a written warning too, and when the leakage happened, he just ran away from the spot. This is just not acceptable," the spokesperson notes.

Awareness campaign

To avoid a repeat of such major leakages, GAIL has intensified its awareness campaigns.

"Now we are going to all the utility agencies and insisting that the SOP be followed strictly. There is an ongoing awareness and sensitization programme. We are educating them on what to do before taking up digging; how to inform us."

The campaign also engages with the public. "There are markers placed with maps along the pipeline routes, and there are numbers. We ask people to alert us by calling those toll-free numbers when they spot any digging or start any digging. The alert should go to the common people too," the spokesperson informs.

Tackling gas pipeline leaks can get tricky without expertise. Recalls Partha Jana, a retired official of the gas firm, "I remember that an OFC company had dug up the road and punctured the line. But when they spotted the gas leak, they just taped it and left. You cannot hold back the gas with such material, and the leak continued and caused a fire. These companies and agencies should be aware that they are also part of the system. They have to be safety-oriented."

Horizontal Directional Digging

GAIL and many OFC companies prefer the Horizontal Directional Digging (HDD) method to digging trenches. But this can be undertaken only after extreme planning and studying what lies underneath. As Partha points out, "The OFC contractors take up the HDD work in the night and vanish by the morning. They don't inform GAIL Gas. Gas lines are punctured, and the gas firm is not even informed. When we do the HDD work, we study the area thoroughly before fixing the pipe alignment."

Safer than LPG cylinders

Since Bengaluru's chaotic network of underground pipes and cables are not mapped or part of any road history project, the GAIL gas lines are laid 1.2 metres beneath the ground. This is adopted in all the 16 geographical areas where the network expansion is currently on.

Despite the leakages reported mostly on main roads, the use of domestic piped natural Gas (DPNG) is generally considered much safer than LPG (liquified petroleum gas) cylinders. The GAIL spokesperson explains, "Pressure at the household level is low since that is adequate for cooking. If someone has left the knob on, and there is a leakage, the gas disperses because it is lighter than air. Unlike LPG, the gas does not settle down at the ground level."

Besides, the leaked gas does not attain ignition temperature. "So, it does not catch fire even when you light a candle or match. In case of a leak, open the windows, and it will disperse." However, the gas is supplied at a much higher pressure to commercial and industrial units.

2.47 lakh connections

Currently, GAIL has 2.47 lakh households connected with DPNG in the Bengaluru zone. "Work started in February 2015 to eventually spread the gas pipeline network over an area of 4,395 sq.km. extending to the entire Bengaluru rural and urban districts. Till May 2023, approximately 1,900 km of steel and Medium Density Polyethylene Pipe (MDPE) pipelines have been laid," informs an official.

The COVID lockdown did affect the network expansion. "There have been a lot of ups and downs during that period. But Bengalureans are very educated and know the advantages of PNG. Once the network is fully ready, the adoption will improve. We are already at a stage - after a long gestation period of laying the pipelines - where the pace is picking up."

Compared to residential areas, the network's expansion in industrial localities has been faster. Over 180 industries are now linked to the gas pipeline network.

Bengaluru Theatre Ensemble bags prize at 2023 Short Play Festival

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

The highly anticipated Bengaluru Short Play Festival 2023, a collaborative effort between Pravara Theatre and Ashvagosha Theatre Trust, was held on Sunday, July 2, at the K.H. Kalasoudha in Hanumanthanagara, Bengaluru.

Themed "Kannadavendare", among the 20 teams that participated from Bengaluru and various districts like Madikeri, Udupi, and more, seven exceptional teams were chosen to showcase their talents in the festival's grand finale.

These seven teams, comprised outstanding theatre practitioners, displayed their theatrical prowess and creativity on stage.

The teams that participated in the festival were Malenadu Rangatanda, Bengaluru Theatre Ensemble, Kalakadamba Art Center, Prakasam, Karana Theatre, Utkarsh Abhinaya, and Kalavilasi.

Out of the seven teams, the play Chennudi by the troupe Bengaluru Theatre Ensemble was recognized as this year's best short play based on votes from the jury.

On the other hand, the play Etta Mukha Madalayya Naa by the troupe Utkarsh Abhinaya was awarded the best play by the audience.

Additionally, the festival recognized and honored the best female and male actors with awards. The best female actor award was presented to Rani P Vishwanath, from the team Karana

Theatre honoring Kannada theatre and cinema actor Umashree.

The best male actor was presented to Rohith from the team Utkarsh Abhinaya, honoring late theatre and cinema actor Sanchari Vijay.

The best child artist was presented to Punarvi R from the troupe Malenadu Rangatanda..

Biocon Group launches its month-long 'Nature Positive' Campaign

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Biocon Group, a leading global biopharmaceutical organization, kicked off an extensive month-long 'Nature Positive' campaign on June 30, Friday, at Yarandahalli Lake.

Employees across the group participated in the initiative. It was held to commemorate the World Environment Day, and to inspire and engage them in embracing a Nature Positive mindset, by emphasizing the importance of environmental sustainability.

The Biocon Foundation, the corporate social responsibility (CSR) arm of the Biocon Group, joined hands with the Malligavad Foundation to organise the tree plantation drive.

This rejuvenation project witnessed the planting of 1,000 saplings, symbolizing the Group's dedication to environmental preservation.

The event was attended by Dr. Anupama Shetty, Mission Director, Biocon Foundation and Anand Malligavad, founder of the Malligavad Foundation.

'Nature Positive' campaign at by Biocon Group.

Dr. Shetty emphasized that, "Environmental stewardship is a fundamental aspect of the Biocon Group's business practices, as we recognize the vital need to conserve natural resources."

"At Biocon Group, we value the importance of being Nature Positive and hence rolled out an integrated campaign in June 2023 to sensitize people," said Seema Ahuja, Global Head of Communications & Corporate Brand, Biocon Group.

Bored billionaires' battle of brittle egos could be a bummer

The Ultimate Fighting Championship which hopes to host the fight might have a paid viwership

ABOUT 500 WORDS

Suresh Menon

When elephants fight, goes an old saying, it is the grass that suffers. When Elon Musk and Mark Zuckerberg - with a combined wealth of 245 billion dollars - get into the cage for an ego-humbling fight, we know who the elephants are. But the grass? That's a more difficult question to answer.

Is this what billionaires do when they get bored? What happens next? Does the winner take on Jeff Bezos or Mukesh Ambani, No. 3 and No. 9. respectively on the Forbes rich list? Or will there be a strategic 'draw' leaving egos uncrushed and stock markets unaffected? That would be deeply unsatisfactory, even if the fighters' families might not agree. Perhaps this could become an international event open only to billionaires. Bill Gates versus Warren Buffet anybody?

Mark Zuckerberg and Elon Musk. AFP

When I started writing this column, the fight was to be in Las Vegas. Now it will be at the Coliseum in Rome. By the time you get to read this, the venue might have shifted to the cricket stadium in Ahmedabad.

Or it might have been called off by the respective parents - like parents of spoilt brats do everywhere.

The Ultimate Fighting Championship which hopes to host the fight is salivating at the prospect of pay-per-view television bringing in hundreds of millions, perhaps even a billion. The rest of the world is salivating at the prospect of at least one of the fighters shutting his mouth for a short period of time.

It might have started off as a joke, Musk tweeting Zuckerberg that he was "up for a fight", and Zuckerberg responding on Instagram with "send me the location."

Now, neither can pull out without loss of face. It is a wonderful commentary on social media - once it's out there, things take on a life of their own. Subtlety, nuance, sarcasm are strangers to social media.

In more rational times, the proper response might have been, "Are you crazy, Elon, old chum? You might have more money than me, but I am twelve years younger and I'd hate to be blamed for maiming the richest man in the world. That cannot be my legacy." To which Musk might have replied, "Zucky baby, of course I was joking. Like the time I said I would make my dog the chief executive of Twitter. In any case, you might be younger, but I am taller by at least five inches, and I'd hate it if my legacy were that I sent the world's 16 th richest man through the floor with a tap on the head."

Perhaps the grass that will suffer, going back to the old saying, is common sense and decency. If billionaires, however bored, think the best way to settle differences is to attempt to give each other a black eye in a cage, then all that money is going into the wrong hands.

It would be poetic justice if the men knocked each other out and finished with identical injuries. That would be deeply satisfying.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 3, 1973

Mysore Govt. Bans Alienation of Agricultural Lands

Bangalore, July 2: The Mysore Government has prohibited through an ordinance the alienation of agricultural lands.

The ordinance, called the Mysore Agricultural Lands Prohibition of Alienation Ordinance, has come into effect from June 29. It prohibits alienation of agricultural land by way of sale, gift, exchange, mortgage, partition, or creation of trust. The Ordinance will also apply to the sale of agricultural lands in execution of a decree or order of civil court or on an award by any authority.

The Ordinance will, however, not apply to leases permitted under the existing Land Reforms Act (of 1961) or to simple mortgages. A provision is also made in the Ordinance for the grant of exemption by the Government where it is considered necessary. The restrictions imposed by the Ordinance will also not apply to transfer of land by or in favour of the State or Central Governments co-operative societies or banks.

As a consequence of the Ordinance the registering authorities are prohibited from registering any document relating to agricultural lands. A State Government source said that registering authorities had already been informed telegraphically to stop registration of documents relating to alienation of agricultural lands. The Ordinance is intended to set at rest the apprehension that large-scale transfers of lands might take place before the land Reforms Amendment Bill, which the State legislature adopted recently, becomes law.

The Land Reforms Amendment Bill provides for a ceiling ranging from 10 to 54 acres.

INBRIEF

Tension at NICU in HIMS after stabiliser blast

Tension prevailed in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of the Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences (HIMS) in Hassan on Sunday when smoke covered the premises following a stabiliser blast.

The thick smoke that covered the NICU, left the hospital staff and parents of the babies under treatment in the unit in shock. They were worried about the safety of the newborn babies. The blast was attributed to technical problems in the stabiliser of an air-conditioner.

The staff broke open the window panes and shifted 24 babies to safer places. HIMS director B.C. Ravi Kumar and Medical Superintendent Krishnamurthy reached the spot. The officers said that all babies were safe and appreciated the swift action by the staff.

'Govt. considering to launch Gruha Lakshmi on July 14'

The State government is considering plans to launch the Gruha Lakshmi scheme – to provide cash incentive to the woman head of families – on July 14, Laxmi Hebbalkar, Minister for Women and Child Development, said in Belagavi on Sunday.

Submission of applications for securing benefits under the scheme was likely to start on July 3 or July 4. There were some technical issues and they were being resolved, she said.

To a query, she said the government was committed to implementing all the guarantee schemes announced by the Congress before the elections.

Siddaramaiah disproves Chamarajanagar jinx

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said that despite visiting Chamarajanagar 12 times, he had become the Chief Minister for the second time.

"Even educated persons have a superstitious belief that Chief Ministers lose their post if they visit Chamarajanagar. However, I have gone to Chamarajanagar 12 times and have become the Chief Minister for the second time." He said that though it was believed that the education would change people's mindset on caste and superstitions, it had unfortunately not.

Farmers reluctant to take up sowing in North and Central Karnataka regions

Scanty rainfall has led to poor storage in all reservoirs. Only 2% and 16% of the targeted area sown in Yadgir and Kalaburagi districts, respectively

Girish Pattanashetti
HUBBALLI

Desperate measure: A farmer in Annigeri of Dharwad district has employed workers to water the farmland. He had completed sowing seeds in anticipation of rain. FILE PHOTO

Agricultural production is expected to be seriously affected this time as farmers in most parts of Kittur Karnataka and Kalyana Karnataka regions are reluctant to take up sowing due to scanty rainfall and poor storage levels in the reservoirs.

In Yadgir district, only 2% of the sowing target has been met so far while in Kalaburagi district sowing has been completed only on 1,41,988 hectares or 16% of the target, which is 8,87,014 hectares, for the kharif season. In Chincholi taluk, sowing has been completed on 53,360 hectares, accounting for 60% of the target followed by Sedam with 49% sowing.

But some of the worst-case scenarios are in Kalaburagi taluk, where sowing has been completed on 1% of the target area, Chittapur taluk (2%), and in Kalagi and Shahabad taluks (3%).

A cause of worry

The poor storage in the Tungabhadra reservoir near Hosapete in Vijayanagara district is a cause of worry for the farmers of Koppal, Raichur, Ballari, and Vijayanagara districts as they are dependent on the water from the reservoir.

On Saturday, the storage was 3.092 tmcft of water as against its total capacity of 105.788 tmcft. The average inflow in the last 24 hours was at the rate of 134 cusecs.

Paddy cultivation on nearly 6 lakh acres of land along the Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal in Koppal and Raichur districts hinges on water release which is unlikely.

The water storage in Basavasagar reservoir at Narayanapur in Hunsagi taluk of Yadgir district stood at 486.94 metres as against the full reservoir level (FRL) of 492.25 metres on Saturday. The inflow to the reservoir was nil while the outflow was at the rate of 50 cusecs. Last year on the same day, the water level stood at 491.01 m. The inflow was at the rate of 227 cusecs and the outflow 84 cusecs. The low storage and deficient rainfall have resulted in the district recording just 2% sowing.

The situation is not much encouraging in the districts of Kittur Karnataka region either where sowing has not been taken up by most of the farmers. The water storage in the Almatti resevoir was 1.822 tmcft as against the gross capacity of 19.442 tmcft on Saturday. The inflow was nil and the outflow was pegged at the rate of 590 cusecs. The present reservoir level is 507.44 m as against the maximum level of 519.6 m.

The rainfall deficiency in Dharwad district was 69% in June and as against the kharif target of 2.57 lakh hectares, sowing has been completed on 42,003 hectares, accounting for only 16% of the target. The situation in the districts of Haveri and Gadag is almost similar. In view of scanty rain and poor storage in the reservoirs, farmers may opt for crops that are less water-intensive.

(With inputs from Kumar Buradikatti, Praveen B. Para, Ravikumar Naraboli, and Rishikesh Bahadur Desai)

Growers in South Karnataka region staring at lower yield

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

The Narayanaswamy temple at Anandur abutting KRS backwaters, which is normally submerged, is visible owing to depleting water level in the reservoir. M.A. SRIRAM

Farmers in South Karnataka region, including Mysuru, Mandya, and Chamarajanagar belt, are staring at stunted crop growth and lower yield due to the prolonged dry spell and delay in the onset of the southwest monsoon.

The scenario is the same across most districts in the region where monsoon is yet to gain traction and is evident in depleting reservoir levels. Farmers have taken up crop cultivation in the foreshore area of the backwaters of the Krishnaraja Sagar as the water level in the reservoir is depleting and was around 78.12 feet.

Sowing has been impacted considerably and in Mysuru district sowing has been completed on 1,86,245 hectares as against the target of 3,97,879 hectares as on July 1. This accounts for 47% of the actual target but this is expected to improve in case the monsoon revives and gains traction.

Sources in the Agriculture Department said the bulk of the sowing takes place in areas where farming activity takes place under rain-fed conditions. Farmers took to sowing as early as in April/May when there were pre-monsoon showers. But this was followed by a prolonged dry spell in June but for intermittent rain in patches. Though the bulk of the crops cultivated are drought-resistant, the yield is expected to reduce if the monsoon is further delayed, said the officials.

There was dry spell when the early kharif crops had matured and lack of adequate moisture resulted in stunted growth and wilting.

In Mysuru, the shortfall in rain was 34% during June and as against the normal rainfall of 94.7 mm for the month, Mysuru received 60.3 mm.

Crop diversification

But officials said given the crop diversification in Mysuru district, the loss will be relatively less. As many as 21 varieties of crops are cultivated for kharif, including maize, ragi, jowar, millets, green gram, horse gram, groundnut, sesame, sunflower, and cotton. The target for paddy cultivation is 1,03,200 hectares for the year but sowing is yet to commence. Being a water-intensive crop and scanty rains, sowing and cultivation take place during August/September when the reservoir levels are encouraging.

In Mandya, sowing was completed on 17,500 hectares during the third week of June as per the KSNDMC as against the target of 1,95,500 hectares. In Chamarajanagar, it was 41,400 hectares, which is 35% of the target.

Budget session begins today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The ruling Congress and Opposition BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) are set for the first major showdown after the former took over the reins of power in the State as the Budget session gets under way from Monday.

While the implementation of the five pre-poll guarantees of the Congress is likely to be used against the government, the Congress is expected to shift the blame on the BJP at the Centre for not cooperating, especially in the supply of free rice under the Anna Bhagya scheme.

The government has launched Shakti, Gruha Jyoti, and Anna Bhagya cash transfers. However, it is yet to announce the launch date for applying for the much-awaited Gruha Lakshmi scheme that entails ₹2,000 for the woman head of each family and Yuva Nidhi , the unemployment benefit to graduates and diploma holders. Amid the confusion in the BJP over the selection of the Leader of the Opposition, the JD(S) is expected to emerge from its poll drubbing to attack the Congress, its rival in Old Mysore region. On Sunday, the party finalised its strategies for the session, and the former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy is expected to lead the attack. The BJP is expected to bitterly oppose the decision to repeal the anti-conversion law – The Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Act – that it enacted in 2022.

The Budget, which has raised the curiosity over the means of funding the five pre-poll guarantees costing about ₹40,000 crore this year, will be presented on July 7 by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who holds the Finance portfolio. Incidentally, it will be a record 14th Budget being presented by Mr. Siddaramaiah.

We'll accept caste census report: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Accusing the former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy of not accepting the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes report on caste census, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said the Congress government would accept the report.

"It was the then Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy who told the then Minister concerned Puttaranagashetty not to get the caste census report. We will accept the census report. Such census and studies are necessary to eliminate discrimination in society," the Chief Minister said after the groundbreaking ceremony of Kaginele Mahasamstana Kanaka Guru Peetha mutt here on Sunday.

Five guarantees

He said that the government would implement the five guarantees announced during the election irrespective of difficulties. "We will pay for five announcements in this Budget. Our five slogans are beyond caste and religion. The poor and the middle class are in dire straits. We are fulfilling these five declarations to alleviate their suffering."

Promising to fight for the oppressed classes, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that as long as he was in power, he would strive for the welfare of the oppressed classes, Dalits, minorities, and the poor.

Former Minister and BJP legislator S.T. Somashekar credited Mr. Siddaramaiah for him winning the election for the second time in 2018.

"I was elected as an MLA for the second time due to grants and development programmes given by the Siddaramaiah government between 2013 and 2018." He also said that Mr. Siddaramaiah never indulged in hate politics.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

'Brand Bengaluru' or his own?

When Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar launched the 'Brand Bengaluru' portal, the corridors of the Vikasa Soudha were abuzz with one question: are his efforts as much to give a makeover to his own image?

The recent activities of Mr. Shivakumar strongly suggest he is trying to build an image that is more suitable for a tech city. His outreach to industrialists, technocrats, and entrepreneurs seems to underline this. Otherwise known as 'Kanakapura Bande' – implying a rugged and tough guy rather than one with sophistication – Mr. Shivakumar appears to be now emulating the former Chief Minister S.M. Krishna, whose grandson is married to his daughter.

Priyank Kharge's report card

As the performance appraisal has become a major criterion for assessing the relevance of an individual either in the corporate sector or in the government, Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and IT/BT Priyank Kharge *(in picture)* is the first Minister to make public his first month's performance report card.

Mr. Kharge held 46 meetings related to departments with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar from May 29 to June 29. He held one district tour and 12 press briefings. Interestingly, the Minister held more meetings (21) related to IT/BT rather than RDPR, says his monthly report card.

Mr. Kharge said he met more than 5,000 people from different organisations and fixed dates for the tech summit to be held in Bengaluru in November. The Minister, who launched several anti-corruption campaigns against the Basavaraj Bommai-led government, suspended a few officials on charges of corruption during his month-long tenure in office and formed the Karnataka Skill Development Advisory Committee for promoting start-ups in the State. Will other Ministers follow in the footsteps of Mr. Kharge?

Veterans vs. youth

With 10 months to go to the 18th Lok Sabha elections, Karnataka Congress leaders have begun lobbying for the ticket for contesting the polls. In one such instance, the former Chief Minister and veteran M. Veerappa Moily and the former Karnataka Youth Congress president M.S. Raksha Ramaiah have been vying for the party ticket for Chickballapur constituency. The former Minister M.R. Seetharam has been lobbying hard to get the ticket for his son, Mr. Raksha Ramaiah. Sources indicated that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has favoured the candidature of the younger of the two. While 83-year-old Mr. Moily, who won twice from the constituency, opened the party office in the constituency recently and has started campaigning. Irked by Mr. Moily's actions, Mr. Raksha Ramaiah now plans to open his office at Devanahalli in the constituency. Will the Congress give preference to the youth over veterans in the general elections remains to be seen.

Shreyas H.S.
Nagesh Prabhu

JD(S) will announce its stand on UCC after the draft is released: Deve Gowda

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Wait and watch: JD(S) leaders H.D. Kumaraswamy and H.D. Deve Gowda at a party meeting in Bengaluru on Sunday.

The former Prime Minister and Janata Dal (Secular) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda on Sunday said the party would make its stand clear on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) after the draft comes out.

"There has been discussion across the country about the UCC. Let the draft come out first. We will discuss after the draft is released and declare our stand," the former Prime Minister told the party's legislators and leaders here on Sunday.

"Currently, there is confusion in the State and national politics. There is fear among the leaders of national parties about the elections. We should not fear as we have not committed any wrong. We have worked for the people whenever there was an opportunity."

Urging the party cadre to remain strong and not to be affected by the party's loss in the Assembly elections, he said there would be a time when the JD(S) would come to power to serve the people of the State. "Do not be disheartened by the loss in the elections. Confidence will be the stepping stone to victory. All of us have to join hands to safeguard the party." He spoke on the way forward for the party in the Lok Sabha elections and rejigging of core committee. The former Prime Minister said: "Do not worry about my health. I am with you and I have the strength to fight."

Anti-BJP meeting

Meanwhile, the former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said the JD(S) would not be attending the meeting of parties opposed to the BJP that will be held in Bengaluru later this month. The meeting has been convened after the one held in Patna. "We have not been invited to attend the meeting and we will not go. Ours is a small party. We will work towards building it," he told reporters earlier.

He also alleged that the State was now witnessing a new type of tax and termed it as "YST", without elaborating on it. When he was asked to explain, he said: "You should ask those who are indulging in transfer and those holding secret meetings at their residence about the YST. This government has 10 chief ministers. There is a chief minister for every department."

The former Chief Minister also said the office-bearers at the State, district and taluk units would be changed in the next one month.

Story behind the story The diverse collection, apart from highlighting Coleman's achievements, is a fascinating glimpse into a bygone era photograph. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Leslie Coleman papers at NCBS offer a glimpse into his work and life

A new collection of material related to Dr Leslie C. Coleman, a renowned mycologist and entomologist who went on to become the first director of the Department of Agriculture in Mysore State, is now accessible to the public

Preeti Zachariah

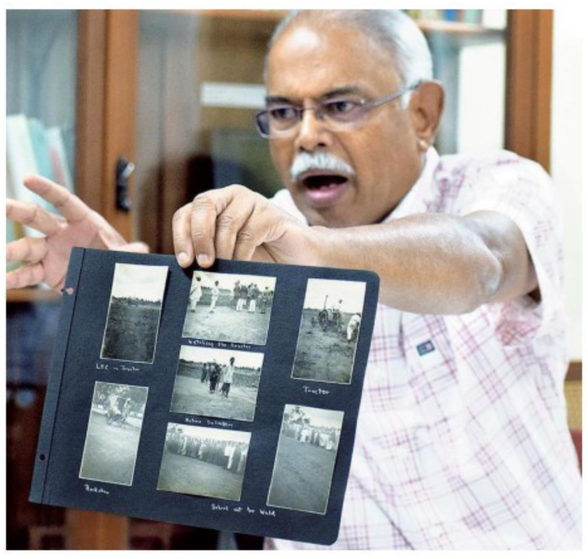
Coleman was a complete person, as a scientist and a human being," says Dr. B. Mallik, retired Dean, UAS Bangalore, who has been working on the biography of Dr Leslie C. Coleman, a renowned mycologist and entomologist who went on to become the first director of the Department of Agriculture in Mysore State.

The new collection of material related to Coleman, which was made public on June 16, his birthday, more than bears testimony to it. These letters, photographs, media clippings and handwritten reflections, which have found a permanent home in the Archives at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru, offer intriguing insights into the life and work of this multi-faceted man who left such a significant impact on the region's agriculture science research.

"We are all highly indebted to Coleman because he started the Department of Agriculture," says Mallik, at a special walk-through held at the Archives at NCBS as part of the launch of the Leslie Coleman Papers. He talks about how the papers came into his possession. "During my tenure, Dr. Coleman's daughter came here out of interest to find out what her father had done," he says, adding that it got him thinking about Coleman, and he began researching his life.

When he told the family that he wanted to write something about Coleman, they sent him all the material concerning him, says Mallik. 'It was very unexpected," he says at the launch, adding that perusing the papers was a revelation of sorts. "There were so many layers to this information," adds Mallik. "It just landed at my house, and I was wondering what to do with it."

A serendipitous encounter with a mutual acquaintance, Shyamal L, led to the papers coming to the Archives at NCBS. "I met Shyamal at a conference, we got talking, and we realised that we both lived in Bangalore," says Venkat Srinivasan, archivist and lead, Archives at NCBS. Thinking that the archives would be a good place to keep these papers, Shyamal connected Srinivasan and Mallik; the latter donated the papers to the Archives. "We were grateful that he felt compelled to donate the material here," says Srinivasan, adding that it went through mid-level processing and is now accessible online.



A diversity of stories

Leslie Coleman, who was born on June 16, 1878 in Durham County, Ontario, Canada, first came to India in 1908, appointed by the State of Mysore to assist Dr. Adolf Lehmann, the agricultural advisor for Mysore back then. He became the director of the Department of Agriculture in 1913, holding the position until 1934, addressing several agricultural concerns in the State over his two-decade-long stint there.

"He brought about a lot of improvements in agriculture, in terms of farm implements, new crop varieties, the way the department functioned," says Mallik, adding that he was also instrumental in setting up the Hebbal Agricultural School, improving the sericulture and civil veterinary department and establishing a coffee research station at Balehonnur, among other achievements. "That is why we respect him so much. He brought about all these changes."

The rich and diverse collection at the Archives at NCBS, not only throws light on all these achievements but also on the erstwhile Mysore State itself, offering a fascinating glimpse into a bygone era. Some of them, among many others, include a sepia-toned news clipping, dated 1933, announcing the retirement of Coleman; a typewritten thank-you letter from the farmers of Ramanagaram; a generous assessment of the typical Indian village by Coleman; a greeting card embossed with a photograph of the Mysore Palace carrying the royal seal; photographs of cattle, crop, farm-instruments and Coleman's family.

So, what makes an archive such as this one so special?

"At a functional level, you can think of an archive as a historical repository that records context, the story behind the story," points out Srinivasan, adding that for him, personally, the purpose of archives is to enable a diversity of stories.

"There is an entire world of things that we think we know, and then along comes something that makes us see things in a new light. In many ways, archives help us do that."

Unveiling the enigmatic life of Fernando Pessoa

TheatreSHIft gives a peek into the life of Portuguese poet Fernando Pessoa with *Fernando and his Grandmother* to be staged in Bengaluru on July 5

Yemen S.

Fernando and his Grandmother, a play based on the life of Portuguese poet, Fernando Pessoa, is scheduled to premiere on July 5, at the Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. Presented by TheatreSHIft, written by Armando Nascimento Rosa and translated by Susannah Finzi, this play will immerse the audience in a narrative of the poet's life and his bond with his grandmother.

An intriguing literary figure from the 20th century, Pessoa is called the 'Endlessly Multiple' poet because of the many heteronyms that he invented-. These figures were not merely pen names but whole fictional entities with individual biographies and distinctive styles of writing.

Infused with innovation and heartfelt moments, this play delves into the intimate bond shared between Pessoa and his grandmother. The production interweaves humour with sombre themes of mental illness, political censorship, and mortality.

Directed by actor and theatre maker Mayura Baweja, the production is a product of three years of extensive research and study. "I came across a short extract of Pessoa's journal in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic and became fond of his writing and his life," says Mayura. "I found the email address and wrote to the playwright and translator of the play and got the entire script.After I got the script, I researched more about him and read his translated work."

Mayura said production was complete after a lot of research and rehearsed readings. A few months later, I met Swati De, who is also one of the actors in the play, at another show. We began reading scripts together. Swati introduced me to Shivam Vig; we started reading the script of *Fernando and his Grandmother*. We started doing rehearsed readings of the play and a lot more research on the characters, which we have now turned into a full-fledged play".

Infused with innovation Director Mayura Baweja, and (below) Swati De and Shivam Vig in a scene from the play. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

While the play talks about one of the greatest Portuguese poets, whose modernist work gave Portuguese literature European significance, the play is not designed with Portuguese influences. "Just because the play is based on Pessoa's life, it doesn't have Portuguese music nor does the design mimic Portuguese culture."

On the other hand, Mayura says, there has been no attempt to Indianise the play either. "We have not included Indian music, costumes or anything else that shouts Indian. The play has a contemporary design which speaks of Pessoa's life and his relationship with his grandmother. There also is an animated work that will be projected throughout the performance.

"The play is open to anyone over the age of 16. There will be certain parts of the play that the Indian audience will connect with. For instance, we talk about Pessoa's journey and his life in South Africa, which was around the time Mahatma Gandhi was in Durban, South Africa."

The upcoming production runs for 90 minutes and is brought to life by a talented team of individuals. Bharath Murthy handles animation and poster design, Arun D.T. takes care of the lighting design, Deepak Kurki serves as the movement director, Abhaydev Praful has composed and designed the music, Rency Philip manages the set, props, and costumes, and overseeing the production is Norman Leslie Doss V.

The play will be staged at Bangalore International Centre on July 5 and at Ranga Shankara on July 7. Tickets are available on the BIC website and BookMyShow.

CITYBEATS

A pan Asian treat

MONDAY TO SUNDAY, 12PM TO 12AM
Shiro, UB City, introduces a wine and Asian grazing platter.
The menu, crafted by chef Priyank Singh Chouhan, includes dishes such as tuna sushi, truffle sriracha prawn maki, prawn tempura, cheese rolls, chicken katsu bao and hot spiced chicken bao to name a few.
The dishes have been paired with a selection of wines.
The menu is priced at priced at ₹1,875 and will be available till the end of July.

Just chocolates

JULY 7 AND 8, 3PM TO 9PM
Smoor presents 'Soiree-De- Chocolat' carnival, as part of its World Chocolate Day celebrations.
There will be a range of couverture chocolates, made from authentic ingredients and concocted by master chocolatiers from around the world.
From truffles to handmade chocolates and buy one, get one free offers, you will be spoilt for choice.
This will also include a chocolate workshop.
At Smoor Signature Lounge, Lavelle Road.

Malaysian flavours

Chowman presents a new menu, which features 13 new dishes.

The menu includes crispy lamb in Mandarin chilli sauce, sauteed eggplants with Chinese greens, lamb in hosini sauce, exotic vegetables in oyster sauce and claypot prawns to name a few.

Prices for the dishes start at ₹300 and are available at Chowman outlets, Swiggy and Zomato.

You can also call the Chowman helpline on 18008902150.

Bust that stress

JULY 8, 12PM
Tie up for this 'Sound Bath Meditation' at Justbe, Sadashivnagar. The session, in three batches, will be headed by Nidhi Nahata as a stressbuster.
There will be soothing, echoing sound vibrations from traditional wind and percussion instruments crafted to help release stress and fatigue.
The fee is ₹750 per person.
Call 8884163061/ 9019154341 and register on https://forms.gle/YymZfg8rTvmsRpvQ7

BJP yet to pick Karnataka Opposition leader

The leader will likely be chosen today morning, hours before the Legislature session is scheduled to begin; Basavaraj Bommai is said to be leading the race and is believed to have Yediyurappa's support; the lack of cohesiveness in the party is out in the open as leaders engage in mud-slinging

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

On the eve of the Budget Session of the newly elected Karnataka Legislature, efforts by the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to elect Leader of Opposition (LoP) were yet to bear fruition. The leader will likely be chosen on Monday morning, at the eleventh hour before the Legislature session is scheduled to begin, sources said.

Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa is in New Delhi and met with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday night to participate in the process of consultations on selecting the Leader of the Opposition. He discussed the selection in a 10-minute meeting with Mr. Shah, following which more consultation meetings are lined up, including with BJP national president J.P. Nadda till Sunday late night, sources said.

This is said to be the first time in the State's recent political history that the principal Opposition party has taken such a long time for choosing Leader of the Opposition.

Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai is said to be leading the race and is believed to have the support of Mr. Yediyurappa. His administrative experience and his acumen in parliamentary procedures is said to favour him. However, he is facing opposition from many party legislators, who blame him for the party's rout in the Assembly election.

Undue delay: The BJP had not begun the selection process even after a month and a half since the announcement of poll results.

Other names being considered are Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, a Hindutva hardliner infamous for his public comments critical of the party, and former Home Minister Araga Jnanedra, sources said. Mr. Jnanendra met Mr. Yediyurappa on Sunday morning before he flew to Delhi, and told presspersons that he would handle any responsibility he is given.

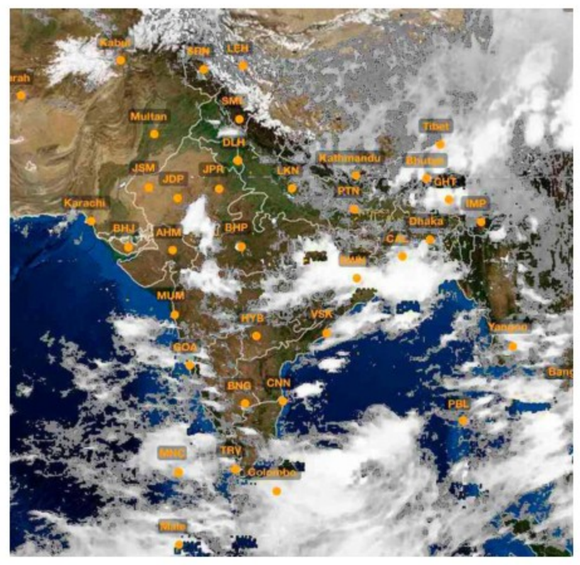
The BJP, which had been demoralised by the miserable defeat in the Assembly election, had not initiated the process of selection of its legislature party leader, though more than a month and a half had passed since the poll results were announced.

The delay was being blamed mainly on the dilemma by the party central leadership on the choice of legislature party leader as he should be able to help rebuild the party organisation ahead of the Lok Sabha election. The fact that the appointment of a new president for the party State unit too is pending had complicated the matter as permutations with respect to caste and communities had come to the fore.

The lack of cohesiveness in the party that had come out in the open as various leaders had started indulging in mud-slinging by blaming others for the poll debacle was also being cited as one of the reasonsfor the delay.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty wind likely at isolated places over Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and with lightning over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, West Bengal, Sikkim, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.4	24.6	Kozhikode	15.0	32.2	24.9
Ahmedabad	12.0	35.2	25.6	Kurnool	9.0	35.4	25.1
Aizawl	—	33.8	22.1	Lucknow	45.0	33.5	26.8
Allahabad	—	34.1	27.4	Madurai	—	39.2	27.6
Bengaluru	—	28.6	22.0	Mangaluru	16.0	30.0	23.5
Bhopal	—	32.0	24.4	Mumbai	14.0	29.9	25.5
Bhubaneswar	—	36.3	27.6	Mysuru	—	32.0	26.8
Chandigarh	7.0	36.0	26.0	New Delhi	—	35.0	25.2
Chennai	—	32.1	29.3	Patna	57.5	32.2	24.6
Coimbatore	0.8	34.0	23.8	Port Blair	52.0	29.6	24.2
Dehradun	14.5	32.7	22.9	Puducherry	41.2	30.3	24.2
Gangtok	84.0	22.4	18.6	Pune	4.6	30.5	22.6
Goa	37.2	28.0	24.2	Raipur	—	32.6	26.6
Guwahati	6.0	31.8	25.9	Ranchi	—	34.0	24.0
Hubballi	—	25.0	22.0	Shillong	28.0	21.0	18.2
Hyderabad	0.1	34.4	24.7	Shimla	6.0	24.4	15.6
Imphal	—	31.1	22.1	Srinagar	—	32.2	18.3
Jaipur	13.0	35.0	24.8	Thiruvananthapuram	0.9	33.4	25.2
Kochi	2.0	31.2	25.4	Tiruchi	—	35.6	28.8
Kohima	4.0	23.6	17.5	Vijayawada	—	39.0	30.0
Kolkata	1.0	34.2	27.5	Visakhapatnam	—	35.6	29.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.11	..17	.24	69	94	.....
Bengaluru	.07	..40	.17	33	79	.....
Chennai	.08	..12	.82	31	59	.....
Delhi	.22	176	.84	56	...119	.....
Hyderabad	.09	..08	.32	46	82	.....
Kolkata	.18	..13	.21	28	42	.....
Lucknow	.11	..15	.75	15	21	.....
Mumbai	.01	..49	.37	...133	89	.....
Pune	133	220	110	42	37	.....
Visakhapatnam	.11	..52	.25	74	...123	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Narnaul, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 335 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Sivasagar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Contestants come up with a variety of dishes at *The Hindu* OSOT venue in Chickballapur

The Hindu Bureau
CHICKBALLAPUR

A good start to the *The Hindu* Our State Our Taste, a cookery competition, which was held at Bengaluru on Saturday in Dr. Ambedkar Bhavan saw an overwhelming response and good numbers.

Gayathri C.P. was adjudged the winner of *The Hindu* 'Our State Our Taste' preliminary round held at Chickballapur on Sunday. The winner showcased her talent by cooking Pepper Chicken and Paneer Tikka, which represented the flavour of Karnataka with Gold Winner Cooking Oil. Judges for the contest Celebrity chef duo Oggarane Dabbi Murali and Suchitra Muralidhar said that the judging criteria for the dishes were based on taste, texture, flavour and presentation.

The winner and the runner-up of The Hindu 'Our State Our Taste' preliminary round held at Chickballapur on Sunday.

H.R. Rajeshwari Gupta was adjudged first runner-up, and Ambika Vinay M.V. was adjudged the second runner-up of the contest. The regional rounds will be held in 24 cities & the winners of the regional round will participate in grand finale that will be held in Bengaluru on September 10, 2023.

The first prize is ₹1 lakh, the second prize is ₹60,000 and the third prize is ₹40,000.

Participants must cook a traditional Kannada dish or give it a special twist and bring it to the venue. Celebrity Chef - Mr. Oggarane Dabbi Murali and Mrs. Suchitra Murali, Mr. Sankara Surya Narayanan from The Hindu Group, Mr. Mahesh from Gold Winner, - Mr. Anantha Swamy Sri Enterprises from RKG Ghee, Mr. Murali from Butterfly and Mr. Girish from Everest gave away the prizes to the winner and runners-up. Our State Our Taste is presented by Gold Winner, Co-presented by RKG, Powered by Butterfly, in association with Aashirvaad, Parry's Sugar & Everest. Vermicelli partner is Bambino. Television Partner is Siri Kannada.

Tension in Srikakulam over culvert demolition

The Hindu Bureau
SRIKAKULAM

Tension prevailed in Srikakulam district after a tussle between the TDP leaders and police personnel following the demolition of a culvert on the way to the house of Palasa TDP president Bade Nagaraju.

The police arrested the TDP leaders when they opposed the demolition drive by the municipal authorities. The Srikakulam MP later alleged that the police 'crossed limits and misbehaved with TDP activists'.

Probe into cash transfer complaint launched in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Police have initiated a preliminary inquiry into a complaint submitted by Benny Behanan, MP, who sought a probe into the allegation by former associate editor of *Deshabhimani* G. Sakthidharan that a top party leader had taken over ₹2 crore in a car. Mr. Sakthidharan had alleged in a Facebook post that the unnamed leader, who is currently a Minister in the present Cabinet, received cash from some 'millionaires' and that the notes were counted in the former *Deshabhimani* staffer's presence at his office.

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MESCOM/2023-24/IND0005	PSC Pole Clamps-GI	60000 Nos
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Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.) (Proc.), Corporate Office

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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its sole and absolute owner **Mr. LOKESH** S/o Late Honnaiah residing at: Puradapalya, Doddamaranahalli, Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk.

Apart from the said owner, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or right or interest or charge or lien in or over the Schedule property, or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for the sale of Schedule property by the owner, they are hereby called upon to file their objections with the supporting documents with the undersigned within 10 days from the date of publication of this public notice. Objections received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the non-agricultural industrial land measuring East to West on the Northern side 389 ft. & on the Southern side 372 ft. and North to South on the Eastern side 155 ft.& on the Western side 155.7 ft. in Sy.No.41/2 situated at Puradapalya Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on:

East by : Remaining portion of the land bearing Sy.No.41/2
West by : Road
North by : Land bearing Sy.No.41/1
South by : Road and thereafter land bearing Sy.No.41/3

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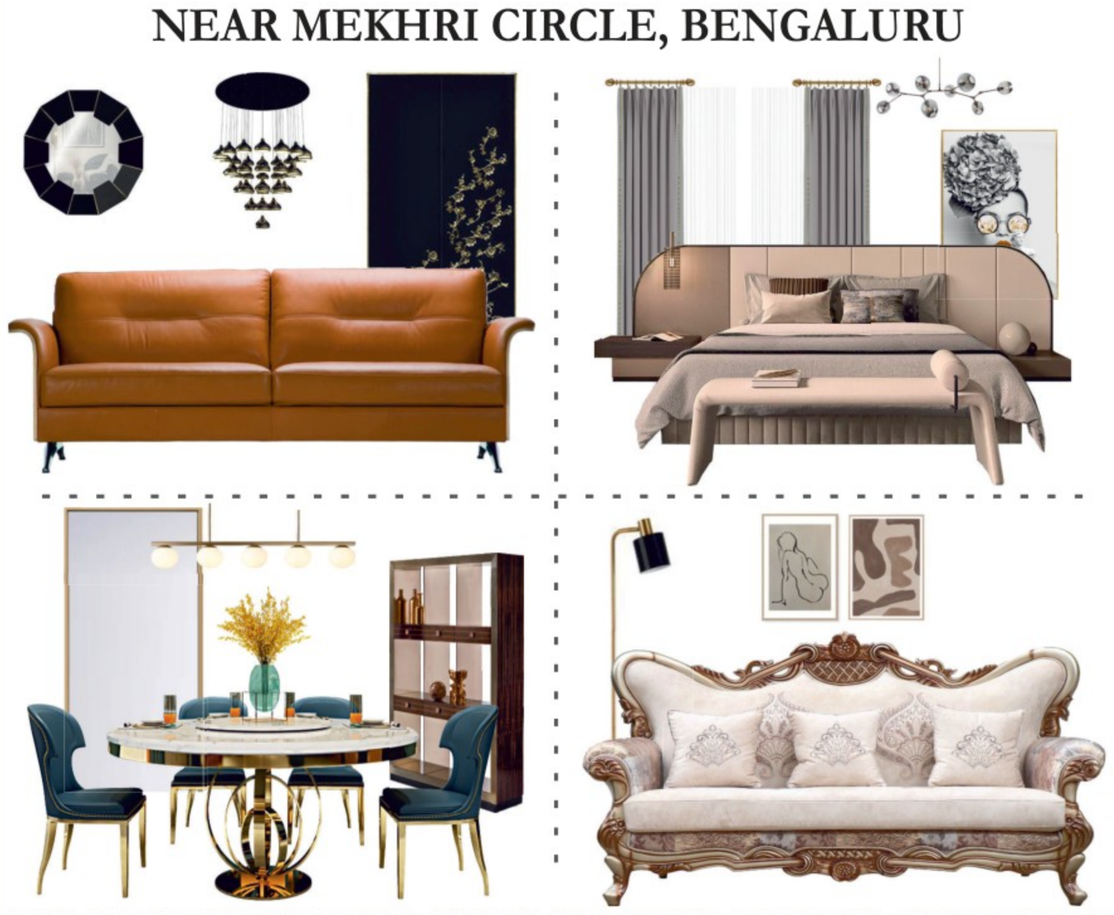

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAM Mohan Kounkuntla ,S/O Vijaya Kumar Koukuntla ,R/O S9, 2nd Floor, Krishna Brookfield Apartment Aecs Layout Near Cmrit Collage Bengaluru:560037, Have Changed My Name As Ram Mohan Koukuntla Vide Afdvt Dtd 27/06/2023

I, HENRY Thomas Hirday ,S/O Thomas Hirday ,R/O Flt–303, A Wing, VMR Geminis Signature Apt, Chellakere, Bangalore–560043, have changed my name as Henry vide afdvt dtd 01/07/2023.

BUSINESS OFFERS

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE CITY CIVIL COURT MAYO HALL UNIT BANGALORE
O.S NO 25910/2023
BETWEEN:MAHESH BASAVEGOWDA AND OTHERS ...PLAINTIFFS
AND:NILL ...DEFENDENTS

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients named as MR.MAHESH BASAVEGOWDA & MRS. RAJANI VIDYAGOWDA (Adoptive parents) have adopted MASTER ADITYA SHIVAPRASAD, the Son of MR.SHIVAPRASAD B.B & SMT. VENKATALAKSHMI.T.N (Biological parents) vide Confirmation of Adoption Deed dated 24.02.2023 at Kengeri Sub-Registrar Office, Bengaluru. In order to confirm the Adoption Deed, the Adoptive parents and Biological parents filed the Declaration suit before above court in OS.NO. 25910/2023. In case of third party objection, the parties may appear before the Hon'ble City Civil court (CCH-75), Bengaluru on or before **15.07.2023 at about 11.00 a.m.**

By The Order of the Court
CCH-75, Mayohall, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiffs
Shakunthala Shetty B.A. LL.B. MBA
Shetty & Associates Advocate
No.1057,11th Cross, 35th Main.
1st Phase JP Nagar, Bangalore-560 078
Mobile No.9343113902, Phone: 080-26647117

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XXV ADDL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-23)
ORIGINAL SUIT NO, 5532 OF 2022
Hg.11/08/2023

BETWEEN :
A body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed as a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390007 And having its Regional office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 11th Floor, C-Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 001. And represented by its POA Holder, Mr. M Rohit Ali, S/o Ishrath Ali M, Aged about 25 years ...Plaintiff
AND :
Mr. Anand H.
S/o Hanumantarayappa,
Aged about 42 years,
R/a No 67, Nandini Layout,
Near Shani Mahatma
Temple Next Road,
Bengaluru-560 096.
...Defendants

Summons/Notice through Paper Publication

Defendant. ..
Mr. Anand H.
S/o Hanumantarayappa,
Aged about 42 years,
R/a No 67, Nandini Layout,
Near Shani Mahatma
Temple Next Road,
Bengaluru-560 096.

WHEREAS the above named Plaintiff has instituted case against you for recovery loan amount **Rs.2,15,484/-** (Rupees Two Lakh Fifteen Thousand Four Hundred and Eighty Four Only) together with interest at the rate 24% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization.

You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or by a advocate/pleader on **11/08/2023** at **11.00 AM** to answer the questions of the same. Failing which the suit will be heard and determined as "EX-PARTE".

Given under my band and seal of the Court on this **23rd** day of **June 2023.**

By the order of court
The Assistet Registrar
City Civil Court
Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
Mr. KN. Artha Kavada
Advocate.
No.177/1, (88), 1" Floor,
Besides 12th Cross,
Cubbonpet Main Road,
Bengaluru-560 002.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The number of posts verified accounts on Twitter can read

10,000 Twitter has made restrictions on the number of posts users can read. The decision was made "to address extreme levels of data scraping" by third-party platforms. AFP

The arrests made in France in connection to the riots

719 France saw a fifth night of unrest after the police killing of a teenager. The crisis posed a new challenge to Emmanuel Macron's leadership and exposed deep-seated discontent in low-income neighbourhoods over discrimination. AP

Basis points by which banks net interest margin rose in March

46 The banks' net interest margin jumped to 3.3% in the quarter ending March, driven by slower deposit rate resetting, an analysis showed. This has helped lenders register a 29.5% increase in their net interest income during the period. PTI

The number of foreign portfolio investments in the month of June

47,148 in ₹ crore. FPI investments in Indian equities in June were the highest in 10 months. Earlier in January and February, FPIs were hugely investing in China as it opened up after COVID. PTI

The share of housing loans in total advances as per the RBI report

14.2 In percent. The share rose from 8.6% in March 2012, as per the Reserve Bank's latest Financial Stability Report (FSR). It also said the housing sector is witnessing a healthy growth. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Chaos undone: A paramilitary check post, that was set on fire by the supporters of Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan, during a protest against his arrest, in Karachi, Pakistan on May 9. REUTERS

The calm after the storm for Pakistan?

What has been the significant changes across Pakistan's political, military and economic sectors? Has aid from the International Monetary Fund come through? What does the future hold for former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan? Is the neighbouring country's crisis over?

EXPLAINER

D. Suba Chandran

The story so far:

Over the last 15 months, Pakistan faced a myriad of challenges, including confrontations between the government and the opposition, disagreements between the Parliament and the judiciary, instability in Punjab, clashes between the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party and the Establishment (Pakistan army), an economic meltdown, and the devastating impact of the 2022 floods. Even by Pakistan's standards, the situation was tumultuous, with fears of a debt default and a military takeover looming on the horizon. However, a few developments in June across political, military and economic sectors suggest a semblance of normalcy returning to Pakistan.

What was the legislative development?

During the last week of June, the Parliament passed the Elections (Amendment) Act 2023, providing the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) the sole responsibility of deciding when to conduct elections. Now the ECP decides the next election date, instead of the President as was previously the case. In March 2023, the President, who was appointed by former Pakistan Prime Minister and PTI chief Imran Khan, announced the election date for the Punjab provincial assembly without consulting the Parliament. The Supreme Court supported this decision, which created a conflict between the court and the Parliament, leading to political instability. The situation played right into Mr. Khan's hands.

However, the new legislation would inevitably result in the ECP announcing the election dates for the national and provincial assemblies at a later date during 2023. This aligns with the ruling Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) coalition. A delayed election would suit the Pakistan Muslim League (N) (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), something that Mr. Khan was totally opposed to.

The new legislation also means that self-exiled former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif can return and contest the forthcoming elections. A primary reason for PTI to insist on early elections and the PML-N to refuse it, is related to this reason. Mr. Khan believed that the existing situation favoured him in Punjab. But if Mr. Sharif is to return, and the elections get delayed, then the Sharifs would hold an edge in Punjab (and thereby also at the national level). It is now looking like an advantage for the PML-N.

What has the military done?

After the violence on May 9, where following the arrest of Mr. Khan on charges of corruption, protests by his supporters and party members quickly turned into out-of-control riots, the Establishment had come down heavily on Mr. Khan and the PTI. The June 26 address by the Inter-Services Public Relations Director General (DG-ISPR), wherein he called the May 9 incident as a 'black chapter of Pakistan's history', was a part of the Establishment's counter-attack, including taking action against those who failed to act on May 9.

Since the violence, the Establishment has taken direct action besides covert pressure. The formation of military courts to punish the perpetrators of the May 9 incident has been one part of the story. The other part is the systematic covert targeting of the PTI; leaders who were a part of Imran Khan's close circuit and his cabinet ended up getting arrested repeatedly during May, ultimately yielding to the pressure from the Establishment. From Parvez Khattak to Shireen Mazari, many leaders who were close to Mr. Khan and formed the backbone of the PTI left the party. Jahangir Tareen, once a close aide of Mr. Khan, has even formed a new party – the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP). Thus, the Establishment successfully built a new narrative that the perpetrators behind the May 9 violence were the worst enemies of Pakistan.

Mr. Khan is now isolated and the PTI is weak with a series of desertions. Pakistan is less likely to witness the confrontational politics that Mr. Khan led during the last year. Many in Pakistan consider that it is game over for him, at least for the forthcoming elections.

Has the IMF agreed to help?

When June began, Pakistan was facing an economic meltdown and a threat of default, facing severe inflation and a foreign reserve that could sustain only for a few more months. Despite multiple review meetings with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), there was no sign of a deal. An earlier IMF programme under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) was to end by June 30.

Despite numerous political bravados and expectations of "friendly countries" helping Pakistan to meet the economic crisis, Pakistan had to go back to the IMF with new estimates. On June 24, Ishaq Dar, Pakistan's Finance Minister, announced new measures that would generate new taxes and cut government spending. The revised estimates of June aimed at lowering the original fiscal deficit target by 6.5% of the budget.

A series of high-level meetings (between the Pakistan Prime Minister and the IMF Managing Director) in June, and importantly, IMF conditions-mandated budget revisions have resolved the differences. According to the latest IMF press release, the new Stand-By-Arrangement (SBA) for $3 billion would "provide a policy anchor and a framework for financial support from multilateral and bilateral partners in the period ahead." This would mean the IMF deal would open other donor opportunities for Pakistan. Finally, Pakistan can breathe as the threat of an immediate default has now been averted.

What about the Supreme Court?

In September 2023, Pakistan's Supreme Court will see Justice Qazi Faez Isa becoming the next Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP). He would replace the present CJP Justice Umar Ata Bandial, whose term has been highly controversial vis-à-vis his suo motu cases, actions against the present government and also his decisions within the judiciary. The government was unhappy with him. With his retirement in September 2023, and Justice Isa being the new CJP, the present government should able to breathe better.

Is the crisis over for Pakistan?

Not yet. On the political front, the fall of the PTI chairman may provide temporary relief to the ruling PDM. But the reasons behind his fall show the larger political problems plaguing Pakistan. The political instability has come to an end, not through a dialogue between political actors, but by the brutal downsizing of one party, by an extra-political institution. This has been Pakistan's problem for the last seven decades. The PPP and the PML-N are on the same page now; with Mr. Khan gone, will they remain so?

On the economic front, Pakistan has succeeded in getting IMF aid. But the larger issues remain such as the need for macro-economic reforms, the prevailing narrow tax base etc. While Pakistan has been forced by the IMF to make adjustments, the change has to come from within. Pakistan has received temporary relief in both economic and political aspects, but only the symptoms have been addressed. The underlying causes remain unresolved.

D. Suba Chandran is Professor and Dean at the School of Conflict and Security Studies, NIAS, Bengaluru

THE GIST

- Pakistan faced a myriad of challenges, including confrontations between the government and the opposition, clashes between the PTI party and the Establishment, an economic meltdown, and the devastating impact of the 2022 floods. However, a few developments in June across political, military and economic sectors suggest a semblance of normalcy returning to Pakistan.
- During the last week of June, the Parliament passed the Elections (Amendment) Act 2023, providing the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) the sole responsibility of deciding when to conduct elections.
- On the economic front, Pakistan has succeeded in getting IMF aid. But the larger issues remain such as the need for macro-economic reforms, the prevailing narrow tax base etc.

EDUCATIONPLUS

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OFF THE EDGE
Nandini Raman

Take charge

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This column may help

I am a postgraduate in Ecology from Pondicherry University (Central Government). But none of the Kerala universities have this PG subject and hence, I find it difficult to get placed. Getting equivalency for my subject in the universities here is a problem. Is there scope of job placement based on my subject anywhere else? Also are there any further courses I should do to get a job? Bhageerath

Dear Bhageerath, Some lucrative roles and careers are across Environmental Engineering, Environmental Biology, Environmental Consultancy, Environmental Science and Management, Environmental Journalism, Waste Management, Environmental Photography, Sustainability Consultancy or becoming a Lecturer. Look out for opportunities across conservation organisations, NGOs, public and the private sector in India as well as job openings overseas. You can also apply for positions in government research institutes and universities. Consider pursuing a Ph.D. to look for opportunities in academia, research and industry. Stay updated with latest developments in the field and attend conferences, workshops, seminars and engage with professionals from the field to learn about newer opportunities.

I am 19 years old and pursuing my UG degree. I am a single child and, since my childhood, my parents have never allowed me to do anything. Even now, they don't let me do anything for myself. They keep saying it is for my safety. But I feel bad about this and, sometimes, hate myself and my parents for this. How can I change this situation? Vilva

Dear Vilva, This is not a great situation to be in. Please meet a skilled counsellor with your parents and have a honest discussion about the way you feel. You should not spiral into excessive negative emotions and feel sad and depressed or engage in unhelpful coping mechanisms. While I understand that their behaviour may come from love, care and concern, overprotective parents can and do stunt the child's personal growth and development. You need to start becoming independent and make your own decisions. This can happen when they step back and start to trust you. Build healthy boundaries and start taking small decisions. They may go wrong but that is how we learn. Also, try and seek support from a trusted family member who can help you emotionally and help build your confidence and independence.

My brother is in Class 11 (Commerce). He is keen to learn music production, mixing and mastering. He is already learning things online. Which course should he take after Class 12? Chandan

Dear Chandan, He could do a Bachelors in Fine Arts in Music Production or a Diploma in Sound Engineering and Music Production (a one- or a two-year course).

There are many short term courses online that offer music production, mixing and mastering from schools of repute that can range from weeks to a few months.

Let him also join forums and communities online and start building a portfolio of his work and networking with other musicians and industry professionals who can help kickstart his career in music production.

Some of the top colleges in India that offer a course in music production are National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad; SAE Institute, Mumbai; Whistling Woods International, Mumbai; School of Audio Engineering (SAE), Chennai; and Point Blank Music School, Mumbai .

I am currently in higher secondary. I want to become an actuary. What major should I choose in my Bachelor's, which can help me in the Acturial exams? Should I go abroad to pursue my education? Raghav.

Dear Raghav, In India, the Institute of Actuaries of India (IAI) is the professional body that governs the education and training of actuaries. To become a qualified actuary here, you need to clear the actuarial exams conducted by IAI. These exams can be taken by students who have completed their 10+2 or graduation in any stream. Having a background in Mathematics, Statistics, Business, Finance and Economics can help.

There are various coaching institutes that offer training or you can also study on your own with materials provided by IAI and other reference books.

Studying abroad is also an option, as some universities like University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin, Georgia State University, (all in the U.S.), Heriot-Watt University (the U.K.), and University of Waterloo (Canada) offer degree programmes in actuarial sciences.

However, you have to clear the IAI exams to be an actuary in India, regardless of where you study. Also try to gain work experience in the insurance or finance industry to increase chances of employment. Check the requirements of relevant professional organisations to get a better understanding of the educational and experience requirements.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line Off the Edge

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Why has the IMF's view on the crypto market in Latin America changed?

What was the initial stance of the International Monetary Fund on crypto? Why is Latin America's cryptocurrency market important? How has El Salvador's adoption of Bitcoin panned out? What are blockchain-based central bank digital currencies?

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

On June 22, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) issued a statement on the use of cryptocurrency in the Latin American and Caribbean market, and about the rising interest in blockchain-based central bank digital currencies (CBDCs). The global monetary authority ended its statement noting that a ban on crypto "may not be effective in the long run" in the region. The international organisation's change in stance on crypto in the LatAm market has raised eyebrows everywhere.

Why is Latin America's crypto economy so significant?

Countries like Argentina, Chile, and Columbia have experienced devaluation of their currency against the U.S. dollar. To preserve the value of their savings, some residents have explored converting their funds to U.S. dollars. However, there are legal restrictions controlling this. Others have chosen to convert their assets to stablecoins – cryptocurrencies designed to reflect the value of fiat currencies such as the U.S dollar. Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, and Ecuador are among the top 20 in Chainalysis' 2022 Global Crypto Adoption Index.

Separately, a number of central banks in the Latin American market are considering CBDCs, meaning that more people could soon be exposed to blockchain-based infrastructure.

Why does El Salvador stand out among crypto economies?

El Salvador is the first country in the world to adopt Bitcoin – the largest cryptocurrency by market capitalisation – as its legal tender. The country with a population of 6.5 million adopted Bitcoin on September 7, 2021 under the leadership of President Nayib Bukele, who is an ardent crypto supporter. He has since bought over 2,000 BTC and continued to buy even as the crypto market suffered crashes, joking about getting the asset for cheap. El Salvador uses a digital wallet known as Chivo to regulate users' crypto transactions. However, there have been complaints about the wallet causing funds to disappear and enabling identity fraud.

Bitcoin reached an all-time high of over $67,000 in November 2021. During this time, Bukele made ambitious plans to issue Bitcoin bonds, build a 'Bitcoin City' and start the volcanic mining of Bitcoin. However, these plans were largely put on hold as Bitcoin suffered multiple crashes through 2022 and the Bukele administration turned its focus to cracking down on gang activity. Around 2% of its adult population was arrested during this process, reported CNN.

On November 17, 2022, Bukele said that he would be buying Bitcoin every day from November 18. And as on June 29, the country's Bitcoin investment value is down 26.3% in total, as per the Nayib Bukele online portfolio tracker. El Salvador's president also predicted that Bitcoin would reach a value of $1,00,000 by the end of 2022. But the asset has not even come close to its previous high. As on June 29, Bitcoin is worth a little over $30,000.

How did the IMF react to El Salvador's Bitcoin adoption?

The IMF said it was against El Salvador's move, citing fiscal risks and consumer protection issues. According to its statement, IMF's executive directors "urged the authorities to narrow the scope of the Bitcoin law by removing Bitcoin's legal tender status." They were further concerned by Bukele's Bitcoin-backed bonds idea. El Salvador was also told that its adoption of Bitcoin might affect its application for a loan of $1.3 billion, reported *Bloomberg* in 2022. This is why the IMF's latest blog post on crypto and CBDC use in Latin America and the Caribbean came as a surprise to many. "While a few countries have completely banned crypto assets given their risks, this approach may not be effective in the long run," said the post, going on to add that the Latin America and Caribbean region should improve the financial infrastructure and lack of support which drove users to crypto in the first place. The post also called for regulation of cryptocurrency and recording crypto transactions for transparency.

What is the difference between cryptocurrency and CBDCs?

Cryptocurrencies and CBDCs are both blockchain-based digital currencies. However, while cryptocurrencies are generally run by private companies or individuals, a CBDC is controlled and tracked by a country's central bank and corresponds to that country's fiat currency.

Bitcoin's price may vary by hundreds or even thousands of dollars in a short period of time, and its founder is a mystery. On the other hand, a CBDC such as the eNaira, issued by the Central Bank of Nigeria, would (ideally) be worth as much as its physical counterpart. While investors often buy large quantities of Bitcoin or other cryptocurrencies and hold them in the hope of making a profit, this doesn't make sense in the case of CBDCs as they are not meant to be investment vehicles.

China's government, meanwhile, has energetically promoted its digital renminbi (e-RMB). Transactions with its CBDC crossed $13.9 billion last year. China has however banned crypto mining and unregulated virtual assets in the country, prompting a large section of the mining population to flee to other countries. The Bahamas in the Caribbean was one of the first countries to officially introduce its Sand Dollar CBDC.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On the occasion of Kafka's 140th birth anniversary, a quiz on eponymous adjectives

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

A word that means "given to drunken revelry", it originates from Roman festivals, dedicated to a Greek god and involved wine-drinking, drunkenness etc. Name the Greek god (including the alternate name that lent to the word in question) and the festival.

QUESTION 2

This word originates from the name of a legendary, maybe, fictional French soldier who served in Napolean Bonaparte's army. This word means a belief in the superiority of one's own group. Name the word and the person.

QUESTION 3

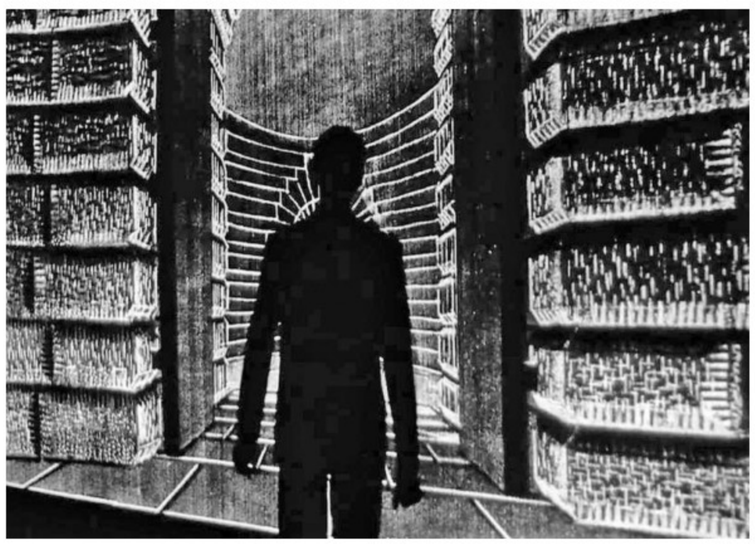
A synonym of "hedonist", this word derives from a Greek philosopher whose philosophy transcends "hedonism" and promoted a materialism that was opposed to superstition and divine intervention, in a way that was similarly promoted by the Indian heterodox philosophy, Charvaka. Name the word and the philosopher.

QUESTION 4

This word, meaning "excessively optimistic", originates from a character in a satirical novella written by Voltaire. Name the word and the novella.

QUESTION 5

Known to be the first recorded legislator of Athens in ancient Greece, this gentleman's name lends to a word that means "very severe, cruel or harsh". Name the person and the word.



Visual question:

Of the many works by Franz Kafka, this novel is among the best known and lent itself to a film which the director/auteur Orson Welles described as the best he ever made. Name the film (photo shows a scene from it). SCREENGRAB FROM YOUTUBE

Questions and Answers to the June 30 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The number of books written by Margaret Mitchell. **Ans: *Gone with the wind* was the only novel she wrote**

2. This character said the dialogue, "Death, taxes and childbirth!..." **Ans: Scarlett O'Hara**

3. The name of the fictional plantation in the novel. **Ans: Tara**

4. The number of Oscars the eponymous film won. **Ans: Eight**

5. The title was borrowed from this poem and its poet. **Ans: *Non sum qualis eram bonae sub regno Cynarae* by Ernest Dowson**

6. The reason why HBO max temporarily removed the film from its platform. **Ans: It was pulled down, citing the need to address its racial depictions.**

Visual: Identify this actress. **Ans: Hattie McDaniel**

Early Birds: Vidya. V| M. Suresh Kumar| Joyce Noronha| K. N. Viswanathan

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

His promotion came as a bolt from the blue

I hope that he will be as hardworking in the new department as he was here

S. Upendran

"What are you doing here? I thought you'd be busy with your sister's engagement. Isn't it tomorrow?"

"Yes, it is. I really have nothing to do."

"How many people are you expecting to turn up for the event?"

"About 50, I guess. I hope you'd be able to come."

"I'll be there. Wouldn't miss it for the world. By the way, the word 'hope' is usually followed by 'will' and not 'would'. *I hope you'll come for the engagement*."

"But I can also say, 'I hope you come for the engagement'."

"That's right! Both are possible."

"I see. How about this example? *My parents are hoping that you will be there*."

"Sounds good! I hope there'll be good food for the guests."

"I can assure you that there'll be great food. It's nice to see you so relaxed. Guess the Annual Shareholders Meeting went well."

"It went quite smoothly for a change. Unlike last year, we didn't have to..."

"I remember last year. People were shouting and screaming..."

"There was none of that this year. What made me happy was that the CEO gave a shout-out to everyone from the marketing department."

"But you just said things went smoothly, and there was no shouting or screaming."

"When you 'give a shout-out' to someone, what you are doing is thanking the individual publicly. The expression is frequently used in informal contexts."

"I see. In other words, it is a public acknowledgement of something that the person has done."

"I guess you could say that. Here's an example. *The movie star gave a shout-out to two of her favourite directors who were sitting in the audience*."

"I'd like to give a shout-out to all our sponsors. Without their help, this event wouldn't have been possible."

"That sounds good. I think the students deserve a shout-out for cleaning up the campus."

"They certainly do. And it was so unexpected. I don't think anyone..."

"It certainly was. I think for most people it came as a bolt from the blue."

"A bolt from the blue? What does it mean? Something unexpected?"

"Very good! That's exactly what it means. When you say that something was a 'bolt from the blue', what you're suggesting is that it was unexpected. It also carries with it the suggestion that it was quite sudden. Here's an example. *The news that Sunitha was getting married next week came like a bolt from the blue.*"

"The students' decision to go on strike was a bolt from the blue for the VC."

"That's a good example. The recent coup attempt in Russia came as a bolt from the blue."

"It certainly did."

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Ornery:
having a difficult and contrary disposition

Synonyms: cantankerous, crotchety

Usage: *She has been in an ornery mood all day.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/ornerypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈɔːnəɹi/, /ˈɔːnɹi/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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Making it count

Including disability in the NFHS-6 will serve the government well

The significance of data in influencing policy constructs and thereon, decisions, is non-contestable. The country takes periodic stock of various parameters just to inform welfare policies better. In context, the recent decision of the Union government to drop the disability-specific question from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6 seems churlish and sends out wrong signals. After years of campaigning for the same, activists rejoiced when the government added one question on disability in the NFHS-5, and were hopeful that this would be built upon in subsequent versions of the nationwide survey. The deletion, and reluctance to map the minutiae that will help understand their lives and needs better, leaves the question: is the government serious about its commitment to the disabled in the country, who number, as per the 2011 Census, about 2.68 crore? The Ministry of Health and Family responded that questions about disability were already asked as part of the Sample Registration Survey (SRS) 76th round, conducted between July and December 2018, and that any specific information can be tabulated from the raw data, which is also available in the public domain. It has also gone on record stating that disability data will 'not change fast'. That might be an erroneous supposition.

While gross data on disabilities will change marginally (but still be substantial given the numbers), the count of 6.1 lakh sample households that the NFHS relies on will make the data set truly representative. The elaborate questions asked by NFHS will provide valuable specifics on the lives of the disabled; something on that scale hitherto conspicuous by its absence. While the SRS does a good job with marking the prevalence and incidence of disability, education level, living arrangements, care-givers, certificate of disability, accessibility and unemployment rate, among others, the NFHS asks more comprehensive questions. It seeks answers on health and nutrition status, access to health schemes, insurance, sexual behaviour, availability of family planning, use of contraception, domestic violence, household amenities and possessions, lifestyle indicators, and access to drinking water and toilets. There is no doubt that the latter will yield better, more robust, data on the disability sector. While Health Ministry officials claim that the sole NFHS question on disability too resulted in under-reporting, that might actually be a function of training for field staff who ask the questions. The state must employ these efforts – adding questions on disabilities, training field staff, because nothing really justifies any attempt to keep a significant section out of a massive scale count of the Indian population.

White against green

Romance adds to the sporting drama on the lawns of Wimbledon

Wimbledon is no ordinary tennis tournament. Played on one of the game's two natural surfaces, The Championships is one event that every child that picks up a racquet dreams of winning. The resplendent green lawns, the spotless white attires and how the two combine to immaculately fill the television screens of fans worldwide only add to the allure. It was thus no surprise that even when Wimbledon was stripped of ranking points last year for barring Russian and Belarusian players against the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine war, it did not acquire the look and feel of a glorified exhibition event. Rafael Nadal underwent radio-frequency treatment on his leg to ensure participation; Serena Williams came out of semi-retirement and a pantheon of stars, including Rod Laver and Billie Jean King, gathered to celebrate the iconic Centre Court's centenary. As the 2023 edition gets underway on Monday, it will be an opportunity for the aficionados to rekindle their love for the premier competition. It helps that none of last year's distractions remains. The Russians and Belarusians have been welcomed back and Wimbledon has its ranking points restored. In another sign of listening to the world, organisers have shortened doubles matches to best-of-three sets, in line with the other three Majors.

Monday will also mark the first Wimbledon since eight-time men's singles titlist Roger Federer officially retired. Novak Djokovic may be a seven-time champion, but his enduring grass-court excellence notwithstanding, it is the Swiss maestro whom this era's fans most romanticise. It remains to be seen if the action over the next fortnight provides cues to identify the next king of grass. The popular choice is World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz, who burnished his credentials by winning the tune-up at Queen's Club. But Djokovic is a four-time defending champion and has not lost a completed match at SW19 since Sam Querrey beat him in 2016. That the 23-time Major winner can tie Federer's record of eight crowns and is halfway towards an improbable Grand Slam (winning all four Slams in a single year) can be big motivations. Among women, the list of contenders is more spread out, with two-time winner Petra Kvitova, defending champion Elena Rybakina, 2022 finalist Ons Jabeur, 2021 semifinalist and World No.2 Aryna Sabalenka all in the mix. World No.1 Iga Swiatek's grass-court nous is not fully developed but someone who has lifted the junior trophy in these parts is not to be trifled with. Five-time winner Venus Williams is making a return, aged 43. After all, what is Wimbledon without a bit of ageless romance.

A case of unchecked power to restrict e-free speech

Radhika Roy

is Associate Litigation Counsel with the Internet Freedom Foundation

Gayatri Malhotra

is Associate Litigation Counsel with the Internet Freedom Foundation

On June 30, 2023, the Karnataka High Court dismissed Twitter's challenge to the issuance of blocking orders by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in connection with the taking down of Twitter accounts and specific tweets. The High Court admonished Twitter for not complying with the orders and imposed an astounding cost of ₹50 lakh on the United States-based social media company.

The judgment undermines the right to free speech and expression and also paves the way for the state to exercise unchecked power while taking down content without following established procedure. Moreover, it exhibits a new trend to hinder digital rights and the exercise of free speech on the grounds of the dissemination of false speech.

Ignorance of procedural safeguards

Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, empowers the state to issue blocking orders in cases of emergency on the grounds such as "sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to the above". The Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009 (Blocking Rules) lays down the procedure for any blocking order issued under Section 69A.

This provision's constitutionality was challenged in *Shreya Singhal vs Union of India*, where the Supreme Court of India upheld the validity of Section 69A and the Blocking Rules after observing that sufficient procedural safeguards were embedded, such as provision of recording a reasoned order, and providing notice to the intermediary and the originator whose content was sought to be blocked.

However, the Karnataka High Court has held that observations in *Shreya Singhal* cannot be construed to mean providing notice to the users of the content, and that even if reasons are recorded in writing, they may not be conveyed to the user. This runs contrary to judicial precedent. In the absence of procedural safeguards, the restrictions that are to be imposed on free speech can be implemented without any oversight or without giving any recourse to the affected entity to challenge them.

> The Karnataka High Court judgment against Twitter is ominous and subverts the procedural safeguards that must be employed while restricting the freedom of speech

This translates into unfettered power being exercised by the state in taking down content, a point which was agitated before the Supreme Court in *Shreya Singhal* and was only laid to rest after the safeguards were emphasised.

Further, while the High Court has acknowledged that blocking orders affect the rights of users, it held that the state could exercise its discretion to hear users and that issuance of notice under Rule 8 was not mandatory. It observed that users of Twitter were not "downtrodden" or did not "suffer from some handicap" that prevented them from accessing the appropriate remedies available to them. Additionally, the High Court held that claims of users whose tweets or accounts were blocked could not be espoused by Twitter and that none of the affected users had approached the High Court.

First, the latter observation is false as the human rights activist and author, Aakar Patel, whose Twitter account had been blocked, had filed an application to intervene in the case. However, his application was refused by the High Court. Second, the view of the High Court that users need to be identified for notice to be given and that Twitter must provide this information is divorced from reality when it comes to application of the Blocking Rules. MeitY routinely cites the confidentiality requirement under Rule 16 of the Blocking Rules to deny blocking orders to originators of content. Obtaining blocking orders becomes a Sisyphean task, even when requested through the Right to Information process, and even if the originator identifies themselves. This is further evidenced by how the blocking orders in this case were provided to the High Court in sealed covers.

Free speech, chilling effect

Reasonable restrictions on the fundamental right to freedom of speech can only be instituted on the basis of eight specifically enumerated grounds under Article 19(2) of the Constitution. The Supreme Court had clarified in *Shreya Singhal* that blocking under Section 69A and the Blocking Rules must conform to those grounds only.

However, the High Court's reproduction of certain portions of blocking orders in its judgment reveals that one of the reasons was that the content could lead to the spread of "fake news" and "misinformation", which had the potential to disturb "public order" and threaten the "security of [the] State".

Misinformation and fake news are not grounds under which free speech can be restricted under Article 19(2) and Section 69A. The Supreme Court has repeatedly held that for speech to be prejudicial to maintenance of public order, there must be a direct link between the speech and the potential threat to public order. However, the High Court is convinced that these blocking orders are "well-reasoned", even though no nexus can be established with public order and the security of the state.

This reliance on dissemination of false information to obstruct digital rights and free speech has been witnessing a rise over the past few years. Disproportionate Internet shutdown orders, such as the ones currently operating in Manipur, are routinely issued to curb this spread of false speech and misinformation. This trend to restrict fundamental rights with the "fake news" rhetoric is reminiscent of the oft-cited rhetoric of the state invoking national security to justify laws that are excessive and arbitrary.

Moreover, the High Court rejected Twitter's contention that Section 69A only permits the blocking of specific tweets. Wholesale blocking of Twitter accounts amounts to prior restraint on the freedom of speech and expression, i.e., limiting future speech and expression. In *Brij Bhushan And Another vs The State Of Delhi*, the Supreme Court held that pre-censorship on freedom of speech is unconstitutional. Such a digital prior-restraint, that too so disproportionate in nature, has the potential of inducing a chilling effect on the freedom of speech of online platform users.

The Karnataka High Court's judgment subverts the procedural safeguards that must be employed while restricting the freedom of speech, and erodes the principles of natural justice which dictate for the affected party to be allowed to present their case to the best of their abilities. Along with the recently amended IT Rules on fact-checking, the judgment has the dangerous potential of reposing untrammelled power in the State to remove any content that it deems to be unfavourable.

The task of reconstructing India's democratic universe

Ashwani Kumar

is Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India and a former Union Minister for Law and Justice

The season of elections is upon us. The Opposition's search for a winning electoral strategy to challenge the dominance of the Bharatiya Janata Party must contend with the inherent contradictions of a fractured polity that has birthed the disarrayed political parties but which must now come together in a unity of larger purpose. The state of the nation, riven by endless schisms, dehumanising insensitivity to the human condition, and an accentuated assault on constitutional fundamentals presents an exceptional situation meriting an extraordinary response. An objective scrutiny of the state of '*Naya Bharat* and *Shreshta Bharat*' lays bare as never before, the nation's depressing social and political realities.

The real India

The heart-rending destitution, exploitation and unfreedom of the multitude mirrors the reality of a not-so-shining India, despite a rising economy that has only widened the economic and social disparities in the absence of distributive equities. The agonising reality of a nation in distress is visible in the fate of 35.5% of the country's undernourished and stunted children, in the stony eyes of forsaken widows, mothers grieving for the loss of their children to addiction and hopelessness, unable to bear the grief of their innocent daughters having lost their smile forever to the ravages of lust and violence, and the unbearable grief of a father compelled to see his children starve to death.

The numbing incidents of a Dalit who had his thumb chopped off because his nephew dared to lift a ball while watching a game of cricket, of a husband and a teenager on having to carry the body of a wife and mother, respectively, for want of affordable transport are a damning indictment of a 'rising India'.... The loss of millions of lives on account of preventable diseases, crores of elderly citizens robbed of their dignity in the twilight of their lives, innocent love denied fulfilment because of hate and prejudice, cold blooded murders and endless acts of torture in custody, the coercive incarceration of dissenters and dissidents, and the flaunted arrogance of power, present a painful truth of a morally impoverished politics denuded of its essential purpose of brightening 'crumbled lives' and addressing the 'deep caverns of injustice'.

> The outcomes of the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections will be a test of collective resolve — of the need to refashion a pluralist democracy

A moving extract from the English poet and essayist Anna Lætitia Barbauld's poem, 'To the Poor', is a window into the common burden of injustice and deprivation that points to a deep wound in the soul of the nation. "Child of distress, who meet'st the bitter scorn,... who feel'st oppression's iron in thy soul, whose bread is anguish, and whose water tears" .

Redemption from the 'purgatory of suffering' in which millions of fellow citizens continue to suffer, demands politics helmed by leadership sensitive to the moral injunctions of a dignitarian order founded in justice and freedom. The challenge for those who seek to lead is to "not just find a fork on the historical road, but help to create it", such as would enable national bonding in shared empathy, transcending all divides. Since leadership does not come to the meek nor to the servile who confuse surrender of conscience for loyalty to a higher purpose, the compelling imperative of our times is leadership that articulates the collective moral conscience of the nation and is sustained by it. And political choices driven by personal loyalties must contend with Thomas Mowbray's powerful censure of those who demand the loyalty of citizens above the dictates of their conscience. "... My life thou shalt command, but not my shame: The one my duty owes; but my fair name, Despite of death, that lives upon my grave,...."

The outcomes of the ensuing State Assembly polls and the Lok Sabha election in 2024 will test our collective resolve to energise the nation's political order and refashion a pluralist democracy around an exalting constitutional imagination. We are indeed collectively charged with a duty to reconstruct our democratic universe around 'the meaning of first things' and to remind ourselves that inaction in the face of wrong leaves the soul divided against itself. Clearly, resistance against the muscular propensities of an emerging leviathan state warrants a passionate participation of citizens, particularly of the intelligentsia, who must remind themselves of the limitations of interpreting the world without changing it. Nor can we forget an abiding truth of history that a pervasive sense of injustice carries within itself the seeds of disruptive retribution and that the progressive advance of human civilisation is embellished by the triumph of right over wrong.

Unfulfilled vision

In a political season pregnant with possibilities, our aspirations for the country are felicitously articulated in the book, *The Line of Mercy*, as a place "where laughter rings, where lush creepers of stories decorate lives, where the caverns of justice run true and deep, where the fire of illumination and wisdom burns warm, where love is not a fatal poison, where redemption and mercy do not hide their wings". Realising this vision requires an act of will, fortitude and judgment. The choice we make at the hustings, deservedly in favour of dignity, justice, inclusion, fraternity, sensitivity to popular perceptions and accountability of power will determine whether or not India's electoral democracy can vindicate its liberal promise.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A mirror to the world

France is burning, literally. Universally, social unrest is ever incipient, flowing as an undercurrent to surface from time to time, but triggered differently in each nation. The common thread is deep-seated social and economic problems, entrenched poverty, crime, racial discrimination and educational underperformance.

For over two decades now, leapfrogging technology has elevated skill requirements that have taken away (and are taking away) jobs from the traditionally endowed working class. Blunders, as in Ukraine, now threaten to take food away from their plate. Social resentment had to ensue. In this pervasive gloom, France is but an example where one unthinking policeman could set off nationwide mayhem. No nation is immune from this.

Of as much concern or even more, should be the shaping of political governance that is seen to follow in its wake. The spectre of social disruption lures the citizen's psyche to falsely pitch for strong right-wing dispensations. If a failing Brexit was birthed by the issue of immigration policy, now Europe is seized with it. If Turkey re-elects a die-hard Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Israel picks, yet again, Benjamin Netanyahu who in hubris is hounding for a pliant judiciary. *Circa* 2024 could well see the return of Donald Trump. The Indian subcontinent too may embrace this disturbing trend.

R. Narayanan,
Navi Mumbai

Governors and troubles

The role of the Governor or Lt. Governors has changed especially in States ruled by the Opposition. India follows a federal structure with governments in the States and at the Centre, each with their own distinct sense of responsibilities and domains to function.

One hopes that Governors and Lt. Governors will handle these ties more sensitively. Governors should realise that they are not pro-consuls of an imperial power and India ceased to be one since it attained freedom — this will only usher in the twilight of our democracy and Governors will not act as the guardrails of the Constitution, as they should be doing. It is one more reason why the office of the Governor should be made an elected office, as is the norm in all democracies, and not nominated as it is now.

H.N. Ramakrishna,
Bengaluru

A statement made by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin — "We have always been pleasant, courteous and respectful towards you [Governor] in line with our Tamil culture. However, that does not mean we have to abide by the unconstitutional directives issued by you" — are words that uphold the spirit of cooperative federalism. The words are relevant especially at a time when democracy in India is at the crossroads and increasing attacks on cooperative federalism continue to undermine governance.

Jos Chathukulam,
Perumbaikkadu, Kerala

Nothing can excuse the Tamil Nadu Governor's misadventure. It is akin to tossing aside the guidelines and norms of parliamentary democracy .

C.A.C. Murugappan,
Kothamangalam, Tamil Nadu

As a layman, I am given to understand that the post of Governor is to oversee whether the State machinery is running according to the Constitution or not. If everything is to be done 'as per the advice of the Chief Minister', then what is the need for a Governor? If the Governor is adequately convinced that something is unconstitutional, he/she has every authority to pinpoint the error/s.

T. Raju,
Coimbatore

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

The master plan and the slaves

Srinivas Chokkakula

is the MoJS Research Chair at Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi. Views are personal

Amitabh Kant, India's G20 Sherpa, stressed at a recent Urban-20 City Sherpas' meet that a master plan is crucial for any city to manage urbanisation. There have been similar calls in the past. Are master plans really a panacea?

A master plan is an instrument of governance for urban local bodies (ULBs). It has recently received extensive attention in national policy discussions, and rightly so. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has recommended that master plans in cities should be revisited for the improved governance of cities. The National Mission for Clean Ganga has been advocating such a step to protect urban water bodies; yet, the idea has not advanced beyond exhortations. Why? Much needs to be understood, for the scholarship on master plans is puzzlingly shallow.

Statutory and spatial

The renewed focus on the concept of a master plan is to be welcomed. But few acknowledge its distinct status as the sole statutory instrument of governance. Many plans to improve sanitation, infrastructure and social inclusion are dependent on particular programmes, but these are at best ephemeral and incremental as they are centrally funded. The discourse tends to blur this distinction and, as a result, obscures the significance of the master plan as the instrument of governance. A further complication is that the master plan is an archaic concept whose sales-pitch is more spectacular than its performance. There are at least four reasons for this.

First, the master plan instrument is dated. The concept, configuration and rationalities of this instrument as well as the institutional structures surrounding it are conceived by template legislations drafted in the 1950s. These were then replicated by States as laws of town planning. These conceptions do not accommodate later sensibilities, such as the imperatives of environmental protection that can be linked to 1974 when the Water Act was enacted. While this is a central legislation focused on industrial pollution, the legal and institutional frame of the master plan remained unchanged with its archaic conceptions of land development for urban service rationalities.

Second, a master plan is simply a spatial plan of land-use allocation supported by bye-laws and development control regulations. Thus, it essentially embodies a spatial vision for cities.

Third, this spatial vision is at the core of institutional structures, cultures and practices of ULBs. The edifice of urban governance is built around this spatial vision and provision of urban services. The ULBs are cultivated and shaped by the agenda of regulating spatial growth and remain slaves to these ideas and conceptions. As a result, the demands imposed on them by the new visions (of programmatic plans) suffer. These incapacities and tensions often manifest in a multitude of specialist institutional responses - the most recent being outsourced project management units. These responses are often driven by short-term goals and political expediencies. Ideally, these arrangements should lead, but do not necessarily, to the transformation of urban institutional cultures.

Fourth, the statutory and spatial nature of the master plan can pose constraints on the programmatic plans, especially the spatially associated ones such as the plans for protection of water bodies. Most water-body related projects negotiate the challenges of encroachment of floodplains as encroachments in ex-post. So, should the instrument of master plan be reimagined to accommodate these emerging demands and sensibilities of urban governance?

Close to 65% of India's urban settlements do not have master plans, according to NITI Aayog. A quick perusal of related laws reveals that there is no set criteria for mandating a spatial plan to regulate urban growth. The approach is ad-hoc, to be notified by State governments. For a variety of reasons – primarily lack of human and financial resources – such notifications of mandatory spatial plans are delayed. Town planners end up dealing with most urban governance challenges as fait accompli. The encroachments on floodplains are an example.

Reimagine spatial planning

Therefore, urban planning in India must be reimagined urgently. How? First, we must acknowledge that the master plan instrument may be limited by its archaic conceptions and entrenched institutional cultures. To assume that it would serve the expanded scope of urban governance is far-fetched and can be self-defeating. Second, there is no need to go far for lessons to do this. Indian cities offer enough experiences to learn from. For instance, many States have tried supplementing the inadequacies of the master plan with innovative bye-laws. Much of this experimental and experiential understanding is, however, dispersed, and is restricted to the domain of praxis. The scholarship has not done well to translate it to inform policy-thinking. Third, the incapacities in urban planning and governance highlighted by the 2021 report of the NITI Aayog must receive priority. And it should begin with an elevated attention to the spatial (town) planning profession and education.

The era of planetary urbanisation brings spatial planning into sharp focus, and calls for reimaging the spatial planning framework in India. Recent moves such as Gati Shakti and Model Rural Transformation Acts are a reflection of this growing demand. But these are too feeble, remote and limited. The Centre must work with the States to reconsider the spatial planning framework in India.

Master Plans may not be the panacea. India must reimagine spatial planning to address the growing and emerging governance challenges of urbanisation

Lofty claims about local governance

The ward administration system for GHMC is not a well-intentioned decision

STATE OF PLAY

Swathi Vadlamudi
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On June 16, Telangana Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development K.T. Rama Rao launched the ward administration system for the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), ostensibly to improve local governance and ensure better coordination among various departments in civic matters.

The system entails the establishment of GHMC offices at the ward level, so that people can approach ward offices instead of zonal offices for the addressal of grievances. Each ward office, headed by an officer of the rank of assistant municipal commissioner, will have employees from various wings of the GHMC.

Mr. Ramo Rao justified the system in view of the population explosion in the city. Each ward has a population that is equal to that of a municipality outside the GHMC, but lacks in administrative systems that municipalities are endowed with, he said.

The GHMC area is divided into six zones and 30 circles geographically, for administrative convenience. The number of circles was increased following the recommendations of the Prasad Rao Committee, constituted in 2011, for rationalisation of staff. Based on the Committee's recommendations, the government of undivided Andhra Pradesh also issued orders in 2013, sanctioning 2,607 additional posts under various departments. But in less than a year, before the posts could be filled up, the State was divided, and Telangana was formed. Nearly a decade has passed since the

formation of the new State, but the sanctioned posts for the GHMC are yet to be filled up. Every department is severely short-staffed. For instance, for the estimated population of one crore, there are only 18,000 sanitation workers employed.

In 2018, the GHMC's Standing Committee unanimously approved a proposal to increase the number of zones to 10 and circles to 50 for quick, efficient and transparent delivery of services. It forwarded the proposal to the government. The change would mean 1,610 additional posts, apart from the earlier 2,607 posts which remained unfilled. The State government accorded in-principle approval for increasing the number of zones to 12 and circles to 48, but kept mum about the sanction of funds for this. The proposal has not taken any concrete shape, however.

The present council of the GHMC was formed in 2021, after elections were conducted in 2020. The Bharat Rashtra Samithi tasted its first major electoral setback during these elections. Almost a third of the members elected were from the Bharatiya Janata Party, which was unprecedented. On formation of the council, the GHMC was constitutionally obligated to form ward committees. Two and a half years since the present council was formed, the ward committees have still not been formed.

The ward committees were to have local residents and NGOs, senior citizens, representatives of the underprivileged sections, women, persons with disabilities, slum residents, and other groups as members. Ward committee meetings were to be attended by all line department officers, and issues pertaining to the division were to be flagged. Recommendations from the committees were to go to the council and be discussed at the general body meeting for resolution, which reflects local self-governance.

At a recent press conference after the launch of the ward offices, Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav said that the government was wondering whether to scrap or retain the ward committees provision in the GHMC Act. Though he may have said this without thinking of the constitutional status of ward committees, his statement reflects the extent of the State government's interference in the conduct of the GHMC's affairs.

There was a time when coordination among all the line departments was achieved through city coordination meetings held every month. No such meetings are organised now. Weekly/fortnightly grievance redressal forums such as 'Prajavani' and 'Face to Face', which provided a platform for citizens to directly air their grievances to the Mayor or Commissioner of the GHMC, are a thing of the past. Twitter has replaced all these forums.

Even the announcement of the ward offices came without approval from the GHMC council. Under such circumstances, lofty claims about local governance and coordination through ward offices can be seen only as another election stunt, and not as a well-intentioned policy decision.

Retail price of tomatoes more than ₹100 a kilo in over 50 cities

The last week of June recorded a rapid and sudden decline in the quantity of tomatoes brought to various mandis across the country

DATA POINT

Rebecca Rose Varghese & Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The sudden and rapid fall in the quantity of tomatoes brought to various mandis across India in the last week of June created a demand-supply mismatch. This led to a rapid increase in the retail price of the staple vegetable. The price of tomato zoomed past the ₹100 per kilogramme mark on the last day of June in at least 50 cities, most of them in Uttar Pradesh, where the degree of fall in quantity at mandis was relatively high compared to other States.

Chart 1 shows the modal retail price of a kg of tomato in India in the past one month. Modal price is the price at which a kg of tomato is bought most frequently in markets across the country on a day. In the first 24 days of June, the modal price was ₹20 per kg. In the last week of June, the modal price surged to over ₹50 per kg. On the last day of the month, it peaked at ₹100 per kg.

The factors behind the abrupt fall in the quantity of tomatoes brought to mandis varied across India. In general, yield suffered due to relatively high temperatures during summer. Moreover, unusually sharp spells of rain in the northern States also impacted production. The fact that July-August is a lean production period compounded the problem. Reports show that many farmers in Kolar district of Karnataka shifted to beans owing to the higher prices the vegetable fetched last year.

Chart 2 plots the quantity of tomatoes (in tonnes) that were brought to mandis across India in the last week of June between 2020 and 2023. This year, in the last week of June, 62,842 tonnes of tomatoes arrived at the mandis, the lowest in the last four years. In fact, this was over 50% and 80% lower than the quantity that arrived at mandis in June 2022 and 2021, respectively.

Chart 3 shows the quantity of tomatoes (in tonnes) that were brought to various mandis across India in the last four weeks of June 2023. (There were five weeks in June 2023.) The chart shows that in the second, third and fourth weeks, the quantity brought was at the expected level, but crashed suddenly in the last (fifth) week. Compared to the second, third and fourth weeks of June 2023, the quantity in the last week declined by 55%, 45% and 35%, respectively.

Chart 4 shows the sudden rise in tomato prices. It shows the average retail price of a kg of tomato in India in June between 2009 and 2023. Despite the rapid increase in the retail prices in the last week of June 2023, the average price of tomato was only ₹32.5, given the much lower prices in the previous three weeks. This was lower than the average retail price of ₹52 per kg in June 2022. The June 2023 average price was also lower than the price in June 2019 and June 2016.

Chart 5 shows the quantity of tomatoes (in tonnes) brought to mandis across States in the last four weeks of June 2023. Data from Tamil Nadu was not available. The quantity brought to mandis in Uttar Pradesh crashed from 12,500 tonnes in the second week to just over 5,300 tonnes in the last week – a 58% drop. This was the steepest drop among States. Maharashtra recorded a 52% drop while Andhra Pradesh saw a 31% decline.

Map 6 shows the average retail price of a kg of tomato in rupees on June 30. In 51 of the 473 cities analysed, the prices touched or crossed the ₹100 per kg mark. Thirteen of these were in Uttar Pradesh. Ahmednagar in Maharashtra recorded the highest average retail price (₹123 per kg) among the cities considered. Bellary in Karnataka, Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, and Dhar in Madhya Pradesh are the other cities where the retail price crossed the ₹110 mark.

Consumers in a pickle over tomato prices

The charts are based on data sourced from agmarknet, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and the National Horticulture Board. Kg = kilogramme

Chart 2 | Tomatoes brought to mandis in the last week of June (2020 - 2023)

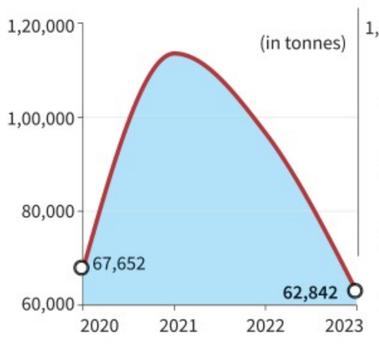


Chart 3 | Tomatoes brought to mandis in the last four weeks of June 2023

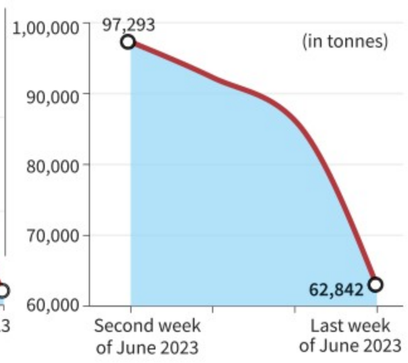


Chart 4 | Average retail price of a kg of tomato in June between 2009 and 2023

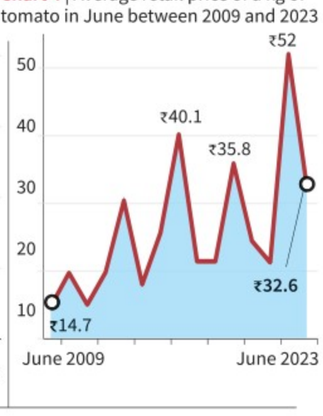
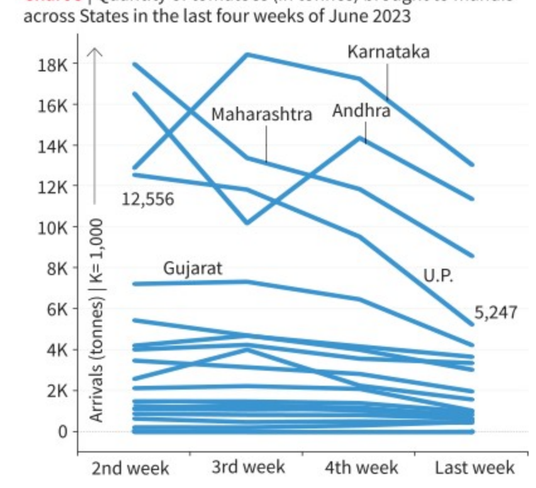
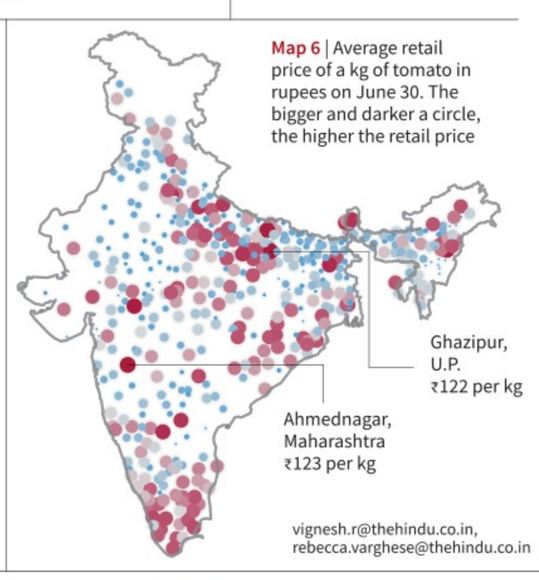


Chart 5 | Quantity of tomatoes (in tonnes) brought to mandis across States in the last four weeks of June 2023



Map 6 | Average retail price of a kg of tomato in rupees on June 30. The bigger and darker a circle, the higher the retail price



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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 3, 1973

Jobless people in country number 7 million

New Delhi, July 2: The unemployment situation in the country is deteriorating year after year and the number of jobless had reached the 7.27 million mark by April this year, according to official sources. As against this, the sources pointed out, about 6.9 million jobless were seeking assistance at the employment exchanges in December 1972. Of them, about 3.3. million or about 48 per cent were educated (matriculates and above). In 1969, the first year of the Fourth Plan, the number of unemployed was less than half of what it is now. The States with comparatively larger number of jobless on the live registers of employment exchanges are: West Bengal (1.4 million), Bihar (900,000), Uttar Pradesh (800,000), Maharashtra (690,000) and Tamil Nadu (500,000). In the case of educated-unemployed, nearly two-thirds of them belong to six States: West Bengal, U.P., Bihar, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. The information available from the official sources regarding levels of employment in the organised sectors of the economy relates to the employment market information programme covering all public sector establishments and those private sector non-agricultural establishments which employ ten or more persons. According to this source, employment increased from 17.49 million in March 1971 to 17.90 million in March last year, representing a growth rate of 2.8 per cent. The growth rate during 1979-71 was 2.4 per cent. During the first six months of 1972-73 also, the employment continued to grow. Explaining the causes of unemployment, the official sources said that the pace of economic growth which was the basic determinant of the pace of employment generation, had not been of a magnitude sufficient to match the rapid increase in the labour force.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 3, 1923

Immigrant rush

London, July 2: There is equal keenness on land and sea on the part of immigrants to enter the United States of America before July. The quota is exhausted. Thousands of intending immigrants lined the Canadian border as the new month broke and disorganised official arrangements. Meanwhile ships from Asia and Africa have brought more immigrants than respective quotas allow.

From Page One

Ajit returns as Deputy CM, 8 more join Cabinet

He claimed that he has the party's support and that the senior leaders are aware of it, but refused to directly answer queries about his uncle's support. Speaking to reporters soon after taking oath, Mr. Ajit Pawar said that the party had decided to become part of the Shiv Sena-BJP government for the sake of the country's development, and praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. "We joined the government as NCP and will contest all forthcoming elections on our party's name and symbol. All elected representatives of the party are with us. Some of them are out of the country, but I have personally reached out to all of them and had discussions regarding our decision. I am pleased to state that they are in agreement with our stance," he said, adding that, in a democracy, the majority holds the key.

Explaining his big switch, Mr. Ajit Pawar said that it was evident that a single party alone could not form the government in Maharashtra, a situation that has existed since the 1990s. Just as the NCP had previously aligned with the Congress and then the Shiv Sena (UBT) as well, now it was aligned with the BJP, he said. "Several people will criticise now a bit, but we don't give value to that and we will keep working for the progress of the State," he said, adding that he had resigned as the Leader of the Opposition in the Maharashtra State Legislative Assembly on Friday.

He noted that the NCP had previously had seven MLAs in Nagaland; based on the party's decision, all the MLAs went with the BJP. "And if we were able to collaborate with BJP in Nagaland, there is no reason why we cannot do the same here. When the party can go with Shiv Sena, why not with BJP," Mr. Ajit Pawar said.

Welcoming Mr. Ajit Pawar and other NCP leaders into his government, Mr. Shinde said that the State now had one Chief Minister and two deputy Chief Ministers whose experience would help strengthen Maharashtra. "Now, Maharashtra has a 'triple engine' sarkar. Our people's government will operate at the speed of a bullet train," he said.

For the first time, Maharashtra has two deputy Chief Ministers.

Mr. Shinde, who recently completed one year in office, said that the parties in the government were united on the platform of State development.

Forging his own legacy

For months, there has been widespread speculation about Mr. Ajit Pawar's alleged ties to the BJP. In May this year – before his uncle announced his decision to quit as the party chief, only to withdraw it later – the junior Pawar visited Delhi to meet the BJP top brass. The Baramati MLA is known to be politically ambitious and enjoys the image of a grassroots leader.

Four killed in fresh riots in Manipur districts

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF) said that a church was razed to the ground in the attack that happened around midnight.

"The police teams of Bishnupur and Churachandpur are coordinating to assess the scale of violence," Mr. Singh said. He added that locals took the three bodies to Kumbi legislator Sanasam Premchandra Singh's residence. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh visited the area. Churachandpur SP Karthik Malladi could not be reached for comments. A villager from the area told *The Hindu* over the phone that the bunkers put up by the Meitei and the Kuki-Zo villages are barely a few hundred metres apart.

"The Meitei checkpost (bunker) is at a height, they first fired upon the Kuki bunker near Langza village on the opposite side. The Kuki parties from the two bunkers of Langza and Canaphai pushed back the attackers and in the ensuing fire, three men were killed," Nehngam, a villager said.

He said the Langza village was burnt down and a youth identified as David Thiek was set ablaze. "His head was severed, put up for display and body burnt to ashes. All we could retrieve were his bones," he said.

As many as 138 people have been killed and over 60,000 displaced since May 3, when the ethnic violence between the Kuki and Meitei communities erupted. Since the violence, the areas in the foothills, with adjacent Kuki and Meitei settlements, have been turned into buffer zones where Central forces have been deployed.

Meanwhile, the United People's Front (UPF) and Kuki National Organisation (KNO), the umbrella organisation of the 24 Kuki insurgent groups in a Suspension of Operations (SoO) pact with the government, said on Sunday that they have decided to lift the blockade at Kangpokpi with immediate effect to ensure uninterrupted supply of essential commodities in the State.

It said the decision was taken "notwithstanding the anger and anguish of the Kuki Zo people" and keeping in view Union Home Minister Amit Shah's deep concern to restore peace and harmony in the State. The decision was taken after wide-ranging consultations with Civil Society Organisations, village chiefs, youth and women leaders on several occasions, it said.

"The Kuki Zo organisations had earlier met the Union Home Minister and appealed to him to provide security in the vulnerable villages in the bordering and foothill areas. We appreciate that central forces have been deployed in most of these areas as assured and the process is in progress. Once the deployment of Central Forces is completed in all vulnerable areas, we will ensure that our volunteers are withdrawn from these areas to help restore peace and tranquillity," it said.

Undeterred by crisis, Sharad Pawar vows to rebuild party

NCP chief distances himself from his nephew Ajit's rebellion, says things would be clear in the next few days; State party president Jayant Patil and Jitendra Awhad say cadre are with senior Pawar

Shoumojit Banerjee
PUNE

Sharad Pawar with party MLA Rohit Pawar during a press conference in Pune on Sunday. PTI

As senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar, after months of speculation and dithering, finally joined the ruling Eknath Shinde-BJP dispensation along with other NCP leaders in Maharashtra, party president Sharad Pawar on Sunday distanced himself from his nephew's rebellion and vowed to rebuild his party to play a vital role in the Opposition.

Unruffled by the bewildering turn of events, the NCP chief, a past master in tiding political crises, said he did not endorse his nephew's actions, while stating that things would be clear in the next few days.

"Some days before, Prime Minister [Narendra] Modi had targeted the NCP [in Bhopal] by remarking that our party wallowed in corruption while mentioning the Maharashtra Cooperative Bank scam and the Maharashtra irrigation scam. Today, I am happy that the PM's party has sworn in some members of the NCP as part of the government... I am thankful to the PM for having freed the NCP from his accusations," quipped Mr. Pawar.

Commenting on the question of the future of the NCP, Mr. Pawar said the present crisis was not new for him.

"This situation may be new for some but not for me. In 1980, except for six of my 58 MLAs in my party, all had deserted me. I became the leader of just five MLAs and started touring Maharashtra with the objective of rebuilding my party from scratch. In the next elections, of those who had left me, all were defeated barring three or four... I have full faith in Maharashtra's public and its youth and I will be touring the State again," he said.

He said that since the surprise swearing-in of nine NCP leaders, he had been getting phone calls from leaders of several parties across the country, expressing solidarity in their fight against the BJP.

"I have not spoken with any of these nine [including Mr. Ajit Pawar] who took the oath. Only Chhagan Bhujbal told me that what was happening was not proper," he said.

Criticising Praful Patel and Sunil Tatkare, Mr. Pawar said: "I am the party's president and I had allotted some responsibilities to these people... I had appointed Mr. Praful Patel as general secretary [and party's working president] recently. I want to tell them that they have not discharged their responsibilities and the people are not liking all this."

"I had called a meeting of some top leaders [of the party] on July 6 and was to discuss some questions pertaining to changes in the organisation. Things will be clear before the public in next two-three days," said Mr. Pawar.

'Back Sharad Pawar'

NCP State chief Jayant Patil, along with newly appointed Leader of the Opposition Jitendra Awhad, held a press conference in Mumbai and said the party cadre stood united behind Mr. Pawar.

"Neither Mr. Pawar nor the NCP cadres support this move. They stand as one behind Mr. Pawar. But it is our belief that whenever such a crisis has erupted, Mr. Pawar emerges even stronger," said Mr. Patil, a known rival of Mr. Ajit Pawar within the NCP.

'Washing machine' of BJP has resumed operation: Congress

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

> This is not a legitimately elected government but an ED-facilitated power grab. The Maharashtra government is a product of corruption and sin
>
> **K.C. VENUGOPAL**
> Congress leader

Alleging that a number of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leaders who joined the BJP on Sunday were facing "serious corruption charges", the Congress took a dig at the BJP by stating that its "washing machine" was in operation.

The Maharashtra Congress tweeted an old video of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis saying that the NCP's Ajit Pawar, now a Deputy Chief Minister in the Eknath Shinde-led government, would be in jail once the BJP returned to power. In a show of solidarity, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi spoke to NCP president Sharad Pawar on telephone to extend support. Sonia Gandhi too spoke to Mr. Sharad Pawar.

ED's role

"In Geometry, it's QED [*quod erat demonstrandum*, meaning which was to be proved]. In Indian politics, it's ED," senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh told *The Hindu*, referring to allegations that several of those who joined the BJP were questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). "Clearly the BJP's 'washing machine' has resumed its operations. A number of new entrants into the BJP-led alliance in Maharashtra today had been facing serious corruption charges with ED, CBI and Income Tax authorities after them. Now they have all got a clean chit," Mr. Ramesh added in a separate tweet.

Though he didn't name anyone, all the top three NCP leaders – Mr. Ajit Pawar, Praful Patel and Chagan Bhujbal – are facing allegations of corruption and money laundering in separate cases and have been questioned by the ED.

"This is not a legitimately elected government, but an ED-facilitated power grab. The Maharashtra government is a product of corruption and sin," Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal tweeted.

"The people have very well identified the traitors, corrupt and compromised leaders of Maharashtra and each of them will be taught the lessons of their lifetime in the next election," the Congress leader added.

NCP split may impact efforts to forge Opposition unity

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar (centre) with NCP leaders Praful Patel and Chhagan Bhujbal addressing the media. EMMANUAL YOGINI

The Sunday afternoon events in Mumbai, when the National Congress Party (NCP) split and much of its senior leadership joined the Bharatiya Janata Party-Shiv Sena(Eknath Shinde) government in Maharashtra, are not just being seen as a blow to the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance in the State but also to the attempts to forge a larger Opposition unity nationally.

Despite splitting the Shiv Sena, the BJP-Shiv Sena (Shinde faction) alliance in the State was on shaky ground as far as its electoral prospects going into the 2024 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections were concerned.

This was reflected last winter when the national leadership of the BJP increased the number of its so-called "vulnerable Lok Sabha seats" from Maharashtra and Bihar to 160 from 144, purely on the strength of the fact that their long-time alliances in Maharashtra and Bihar [with the Janata Dal(U)] had ended.

The State unit of the BJP had, in fact, asked for simultaneous elections just to capitalise on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity.

With senior NCP leaders with mass following and support bases splitting from the party, the BJP feels far more assured in facing the polls. The crossing over of leaders such as Chhagan Bhujbal and Sunil Tatkare is a boost to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

The crossing of these leaders, as well as the presence of former Union Minister Praful Patel, considered a die-hard Sharad Pawar loyalist, at the swearing-in, serves two purposes for the BJP.

First, it demonstrates that Mr. Sharad Pawar's decision to nominate his daughter, Supriya Sule, as his successor is not a universally popular move within the NCP. The leader with the most organisational heft in the NCP after him is still his nephew, Ajit Pawar.

Seed of suspicion

Second, and slightly contrary to the first, it may sow distrust with regard to Mr. Sharad Pawar among the Opposition parties who gathered in Patna in June to hammer out a unified Opposition group.

The exit of Mr. Bhujbal, Mr. Patel, Mr. Tatkare and Dilip Walse-Patil, all of whom were close to Mr. Sharad Pawar, has already sparked speculation that it could be a move by Pawar senior to sail in both boats. In fact, the statements made by Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, in interviews just days before the NCP split, saying that Mr. Sharad Pawar had been in the know about the early morning swearing-in of Mr. Ajit Pawar in 2019 could be fertilising that seed of suspicion.

Whatever the case may be, the BJP feels that the Opposition's efforts to forge unity would be hit by the events in Maharashtra. With 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra, the State not only has numerical heft but, as home to India's commercial capital Mumbai, is also important for generating the resources to fight elections.

BJP engineered the split in NCP, say Opposition parties

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

PDP accuses BJP of MLA-buying spree, while JD(U) says BJP is rattled by Opposition unity

The Opposition parties came down heavily on the BJP accusing it of engineering the split in the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) in Maharashtra.

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti said the ruling party was on an "MLA-purchasing spree". She said that no words were enough to condemn the manner in which the BJP had repeatedly undermined the popular mandate in Maharashtra.

AAP leader Atishi said the BJP had declared openly now that all the corrupt should come into its fold and get "cleaned off their sins in its washing machine". West Bengal Minister and Trinamool Congress leader Babul Supriyo too echoed the view.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said: "BJP does this from time to time, first they did this in Madhya Pradesh, and then in Maharashtra, but people are watching this."

Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha leader Priyanka Chaturvedi tweeted: "BJP should be the last party talking about ideological alliances. They are just political opportunists wanting power at any cost!"

JD(U) chief spokesperson K.C. Tyagi said the move showed the "fear" instilled in the BJP by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar by uniting the Opposition," he said. DMK leader T.K.S. Elangovan said after the Opposition meet in Patna, the BJP was afraid, and hence want to break the Opposition parties.

Probing 'security lapses' in Atiq Ahmed killing, Uttar Pradesh govt. informs SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Atiq Ahmed

The Uttar Pradesh government informed the Supreme Court on Sunday that it is investigating the "security lapses" which allowed three armed men to merge with journalists to dodge a police cordon and to shoot dead gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother on April 15.

The State said that *prima facie* reports from the senior police officers concerned has revealed that four policemen and the Station House Officer (SHO) of the Shahganj police station have been placed under suspension pending initiation of disciplinary proceedings.

The State said that it had taken immediate steps to investigate the murder, including the constitution of a three-member inquiry commission which was later upgraded to a five-member panel under the chairmanship of the Allahabad High Court's former Chief Justice D.B. Bhonsle. However, the Commission is yet to complete its assigned task and has been granted an extension till September 24.

Moreover, the State said that a Special Investigation Team led by Additional Director-General of Police (ADGP)had been formed. There was also a magisterial inquiry under way.

The government assured the court that, with all these steps, the investigation into the killings was "scientific, impartial and thorough".

A separate inquiry commission was also formed to look into the deaths of his son Mohd. Asad Khan and his associate Mohd. Ghulam, who died in police retaliatory firing on April 13, according to the State.

The State said that many police reforms had been introduced based on a a report submitted by the Justice B.S. Chauhan Commission, including the separation of the law and order and investigation wings of the police.

Petitioner-advocate Vishal Tiwari had alleged an "emerging pattern" in these deaths and sought an inquiry. His petition alleges that the police have gunned down 183 alleged criminals in the six years.

NIA conducts searches in radicalisation module case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The NIA on Sunday conducted searches at multiple locations across three States in connection with a case against a radicalised group, Ghazwa-e-Hind, allegedly being run by Pakistan-based suspects.

The searches were carried out at five locations in Bihar's Darbhanga and two places in Patna; Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh; and Surat in Gujarat. The agency seized digital devices, SIM cards and documents.

The case had come to light after the arrest of one Marghoob Ahmad Danish aka Tahir, of Phulwarisharif in Patna, by the Bihar police, which registered an FIR on July 14 last year. The NIA took over the probe eight days later. He was chargesheeted on January 6 under various provisions of the IPC and UAPA.

‘DMK will not change its stand on BJP because of ED action’

Alleging that the Union government has been targeting T.N. Ministers because of his attempts to forge a national front, the Chief Minister says BJP leaders too have cases against them and ‘moral ground cannot be a one-way route’. He says the ED has been turned into a ‘branch of BJP’, and criticises Governor R.N. Ravi for playing a reckless game with the people of the State and their welfare

INTERVIEW

M.K. Stalin

B. Kolappan

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Sunday accused the Modi government of targeting his Ministers through Central agencies out of anger at his attempts to forge a national front against the BJP. He also said that Governor R.N. Ravi was unable to stomach the DMK government’s welfare initiatives. Excerpts:

Tamil Nadu Governor Ravi recently dismissed from the Council of Ministers V. Senthilbalaji, Minister without portfolio in judicial custody, only to keep it in abeyance within a few hours. What do you think led him to do this?

The Governor’s motive is the DMK government headed by me should not run smoothly and implement welfare schemes for the people. We have achieved the distinction of making Tamil Nadu the second developed State through various schemes. The Governor is unable to stomach it. He does not have an iota of inclination to do good to the people and country. That is why he has indulged in an illogical argument against the government. Let me give an example. When I went to Japan and Singapore to sign memoranda of understanding and invite investors for the Global Investors Meet, he said investment could not be attracted by touring. What does he want to convey? He seeks to create a wrong image about T.N. among investors. He feels T.N. should not get investment and generate employment for the youth. His speeches, aimed at creating confusion on a regular basis, only show he is irritated by the governance in T.N. His baseless and anti-Constitutional speeches create discord in society and destroy social harmony. He knows he does not have any power and was appointed as per the Constitution. Still he is playing a reckless game with the people of T.N. and their welfare.

Mr. Ravi is accused of functioning according to the BJP-led Union government’s diktats. But he has kept in abeyance his letter ‘dismissing’ Mr. Senthilbalaji on the advice of the Union Home Minister to seek the Attorney-General’s opinion.

I do not want to go into whether he is acting according to the Centre’s diktats. Irrespective of that, it is clear the Governor has no power to appoint or remove a Minister. If the Union government does not control him, it will face the anger of T.N. people.

While you criticised Mr. Senthilbalaji’s ‘dismissal’ as “anti-Constitutional”, you had urged the Governor to dismiss then AIADMK Ministers facing corruption charges. Is this not double standard?

Making such a demand was a political measure. But the Governor should not become a politician. He has not acted as per the Constitution. He targets Mr. Senthilbalaji in a manner similar to the BJP.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

AIADMK Ministers, who faced cases and raids from the Income-Tax (I-T) Department and Enforcement Directorate (ED), were not arrested, even after being voted out of power. But the I-T Department subjected Mr. Senthilbalaji [and his acquaintances] to raids because of political vendetta. ED arrested him in an inhuman manner. What is the need for a sudden arrest on a complaint filed nine years ago and lock him up in a room and torture for 18 hours? He is a Minister and participates in public functions. Why is there a hurry to lock him up and elicit a statement?

Though he had blocks in his heart and required surgery, the ED behaved in a heartless manner and argued it was a drama. It refused to believe doctors’ diagnosis. It objected to shifting him to a private hospital. We oppose the inhuman act, selective arrest and misuse of power of the ED. He is continuing as a Minister without portfolio since he was hospitalised. We are not against genuine and proper legal proceedings. We have faced them legally and won.

There is an opinion that you could have removed Mr. Senthilbalaji from the Cabinet on moral grounds.

Many MLAs, MPs and Ministers across India are facing innumerable cases. Jayalalithaa continued as Chief Minister till she was convicted. Election affidavits of some BJP Ministers show they are facing cases. So moral ground cannot be a one-way route. I have taken a correct stand after the BJP converted the ED as its branch to settle scores with political enemies. Remind yourself about how the ED was used against BJP’s political opponents and how cases were put on backburner after those politicians joined the BJP and you will appreciate my stand is correct. The issue is not just about Mr. Senthilbalaji. The issue is connected with the powers and rights vested on the State government by the Constitution. It directly connects with the basic principles of our party such as State autonomy and rights of the States.

Mr. Senthilbalaji’s supporters attacked I-T officials. Did you reprimand him?

It was wrong and I chided him. When it received information about the incident, the police dispersed the crowd and offered adequate protection to I-T officials. The attackers were arrested. But the I-T Department, which also functions as a branch of the BJP, suppresses the fact. The media also suppresses it.

Relations between the T.N. government and Raj Bhavan are under strain. Can you still work in tandem with the Governor? Do you endorse demands for Mr. Ravi’s recall?

It is not just the issue of recalling Mr. Ravi from Tamil Nadu. Our stand is there is no need to have a Governor.

Do you think the Centre is targeting you due to your relentless attack on the BJP and attempts to mobilise a national alliance against it?

Yes. It is the truth. National leaders and Chief Ministers are meeting me and I have been persuading them to come together against the BJP. I have rejected the suggestion that there could be a third front without the Congress. A front in which Congress is a partner alone can defeat the BJP. It has angered the BJP and it is scared of our Patna meeting. It could be explained by the manner in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi denigrated the DMK and our leader Kalaignar (M. Karunanidhi) in Madhya Pradesh. We are not going to change our stand because the BJP is targeting DMK Ministers. You could sense we have reinforced our stand after BJP launched its vehement attack. The BJP will go to any extent to destroy Opposition unity. What is happening in Maharashtra is a part of its design. People are silently watching BJP’s anti-democratic activities. History tells us fascists, who construed the silence of people as fear, ultimately fell. People who vote for democracy is its armour and strength. The BJP’s designs to destroy Opposition unity will not succeed.

Mr. Modi is the BJP’s face but the Opposition is unable to project a PM candidate. Is it possible to defeat the BJP?

The BJP is not projecting Mr. Modi at the national level. It is your imagination and your question stems from it. We still have many months. Wait and see. What an alliance requires is not a leader, but a goal. The principle that we will defeat the BJP, which is against democracy, secularism, social justice, federalism and the Constitution, guides our alliance.

India, China ramp up infra on north bank of Pangong lake

India is building a black-topped road on the north bank and China is building a bridge across glacial lake; both await 19th round of Corps Commander level talks to find a resolution to dispute

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Three years after the violent clash between Indian and Chinese forces in Galwan followed by tanks facing each other around the Pangong Tso – a lake spanning eastern Ladakh and western Tibet – there is hectic activity in the area from both sides. While China is rushing to complete a bridge across the Pangong Tso, connecting the north and south banks, India is also building a black-topped road on its side on the north bank.

These are among a number of infrastructure projects initiated on both sides since the stand-off, permanently altering the status quo on the ground in eastern Ladakh, even as the two sides await the 19th round of Corps Commander-level talks to find a resolution to their dispute in the region.

“Construction of black-topped road towards Finger 4 on our side is on and is expected to be completed by 2025. There is major impetus on infrastructure, road networks, advanced landing grounds and so on,” an official source said, on condition of anonymity. This was also confirmed by another official source. In addition, construction work is at an advanced stage on the alternative axis to the critical Darbuk-Skyok-Daulat Beg Oldie road through the Saser La, the source stated.

There have been a number of infrastructure projects initiated around Pangong lake, since the stand-off began in 2020. FILE PHOTO

Chinese construction

On the Chinese side, the source said that work is now under way on the main bridge, while the secondary bridge has been completed. Recently, large-scale construction activity was observed on the north bank. Apart from the bridge, work on road connectivity along the south bank towards Shandong village is also under progress, another official source said, citing intelligence inputs. A Chinese air defence site is located east of the Khurnak fort.

A 22-km tunnel is under construction along the G-0177 expressway at Yuli, connecting to the very important G-216 highway in Tibet.

As over one lakh troops continue to be deployed on either side of the lake since 2020, the Corps Commander-level talks remain gridlocked over two remaining friction points at Depsang and Demchok. At both locations, the Chinese side has been blocking Indian patrols, the source said, while adding that there has been some climb-down on Chinese position during the talks.

The budgetary allocation for the Border Roads Organisation has increased sharply over the past few years; in 2023-24, for instance, BRO’s capital budget was ₹5,000 crore, 43% higher than the ₹3,500 crore allocated in 2022-23. Much of that has been spent on the India-China Border Roads (ICBR) plan.

The first source said that there has been significant progress under the second phase of the ICBR plan. It envisages the construction of over 1,400 km of strategic roads along the LAC.

The BRO is close to finishing some key infrastructure projects in the eastern sector, improving all-weather connectivity along the LAC.

Chidambaram flays Assam CM’s remarks

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Congress leader P. Chidambaram on Sunday slammed Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma over his remarks on Manipur and said that it would help if he does not “poke his nose” into the conflict and stayed away.

“It will also help if Biren Singh [Manipur CM] resigned as CM and President’s Rule was imposed for a few months,” he added. Mr. Sarma had said on Saturday that the situation in Manipur will improve in seven to 10 days.

Nitish meets JD(U) MPs individually

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Days after meeting Janata Dal(U) MLAs and party workers, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar held one-on-one meetings with party MPs at his residence on Sunday.

Mr. Kumar met four MPs – three from the Lok Sabha and one from the Rajya Sabha. He has been meeting party leaders for the past three days asking them about development work in their constituencies. JD(U) sources told *The Hindu* that the Chief Minister enquired about incomplete development work and also asked them to be prepared for the Lok Sabha election.

“We were told that this time we have to defeat the BJP. We were also asked to cooperate with our allies,” a JD(U) MP said.

OSMANIA UNIVERSITY
HYDERABAD - 500007

Applications are invited for the position of Director, Educational Multimedia Research Centre (A UGC Centre), Osmania University. The tenure of the position is for two years, initially and extendable for five years. Details can be had from **www.osmania.ac.in.** Last date to receive applications is **25.07.2023.**

REGISTRAR

R.O. No.: 356-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2023-24

NMDC Steel Limited
NMDC Iron & Steel Plant, Post-Nagarnar (Bastar) C.G. PIN-494001
GSTIN: 22AAFCN3661C1ZX; CIN-U2731OCT2015GOI001618

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT
(NOTICE)

NMDC Steel Limited (NSL) invites all buyers interested in purchasing BF Coke (Surface Coke 34-60 MM, Center Coke 60-80 MM and Nut Coke 8-34 MM) from NMDC Steel Limited (NSL) from its steel plant located in the state of Chhattisgarh.
For information regarding price, specifications, availability and other details, the interested buyers may contact the following:
1. **Shri Satish Kumar, GM (Commercial),** satishkumar@nmdc.co.in, **Contact: 91-9490759611**
2. **Shri Manu Yadav, Manager (Commercial),** yadavmanu@nmdc.co.in **Contact: 91- 9599221787**

GM (Commercial)

हर एक काम देश के नाम

Government of Rajasthan
Office of the District Collector and District Magistrate Barmer
Phone: 02982-220007 **E-Mail: dm-bar-rj@nic.in**
No. 316 Date: 30.06.2023

NIB (NOTICE INVITING Bids) 03/2023-24

Bids for “Mukhyamantri Nihshulk Annapurna Food Packet Scheme” for Supply of High Quality Branded (with FSSAI/BIS/Agmark/HACCP/FPO etc. certification) Commodities Edible Refined Oil (Soyabean) 1 Ltr. Poly Pack, Sugar 1 Kg. Pack, Iodized Salt 1 Kg. Pack, Pulses (Channa Dal 1 Kg. Pack), Spices (Red Chili Powder 100 Gram Pack, Coriander Powder 100 Gram Pack, Turmeric Powder 50 Gram Pack), items in a sealed big Carry Bag with handle at all FPS Shops including GSS & KVSS working as FPS in Barmer District of Rajasthan are invited from interested bidders up to 06:00 PM of 13/07/2023. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state website.
UBN:- CBR2324GLRC00004

District Collector
Barmer.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR DAUSA
No.: 324 Date: 01.07.2023

SHORT-TERM NOTICE INVITATION E-BID 01/2023-24

E-BID for **“FOOD PACKET”** under **“Mukhyamantri Nihshulk Annapurna Food Packet Scheme”** of subject matter of procurement are invite from interest bidder upto 13-07-2023 6:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state website Its estimated value is Rs. 112 Crore.
UBN NO. CDU2324GLRC00004

District Collector
DAUSA

Office of the District Collector and District Magistrate, Pratapgarh
Ref. No: Lekha/E-Bid/4053 Date: 01.07.2023

Notice Inviting E-Bid

e-Bids under “Mukhyamantri Nihshulk Annapurna Food Packet Scheme” for Supply Of High Quality Branded (with FSSAI/BIS/Agmark/HACCP/FPO etc Certification) Invited from interested bidders upto 6:00pm on date 15-07-2023 Other Particulars Of Bid may be visited on Procurement portal (http://sppp.raj.nic.in) and (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) Of the State. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 78.00 crore NIB No. CPR2324A0004, UBN No. CPR2324GLOB00004.

District Collector and
District Magistrate, Pratapgarh

Make older children in care homes legally free for adoption, says Irani

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani on Sunday said that child care homes had helped seven lakh children across the country in the past nine years even as she asked these institutions to look into the infrastructure gaps present in their respective areas.

Addressing a regional symposium on “Child protection, safety and child welfare”, attended by members of child welfare committees and officials from child care institutions, Ms. Irani asked the committees to visit child care homes and review the cases of older children who could be made free for adoption at the earliest.

According to official data, nearly 66,000 children reside in child care homes across the country. But fewer than 3,000 of them are legally free for adoption.

Ms. Irani mentioned that the Ministry has till now reviewed two States, looked into 9,000 cases of older children and identified 164 such children who could be made legally free for adoption.

Direction to NCPCR

The Minister also asked child care homes to look into the infrastructure gaps in their respective areas and requested the apex child rights body – National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to review these gaps and report to the Ministry so that they can be brought up in the upcoming Budget.

Ms. Irani said that in the past nine years, nearly three lakh children, who were declared missing, had been reunited with their parents. Earlier, under Child Protection Services, ₹2,000 a month was offered for non-institutional childcare. Now this has now been increased to ₹4,000 a month under Mission Vatsalya, she added.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT
TAMIL NADU E-GOVERNANCE AGENCY (TNeGA)

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online tenders are invited by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA), towards Request for Proposal for empanelment of Payment Aggregator for a period of 3 years.
The tender document (RFP) can be downloaded at free of cost from **https://tntenders.gov.in/** and **https://tnega.tn.gov.in/** from 03.07.2023, 16:00 hrs.
Pre-bid meeting is scheduled online on **11.07.2023 at 11:30 hrs through video conference (VC)** by TNeGA and the link for the VC can be referred in the RFP.
EMD for an amount of Rs.2,00,000/- has to be paid through online mode. Last date and time for online submission of bids through **https://tntenders.gov.in/** (e-Tender) is **02.08.2023 till 15:00 hrs.** Technical Bid shall be opened online on **02.08.2023 at 15:30 hrs.** Bidders are advised to participate in the pre-bid meeting scheduled by TNeGA.
DIPR/3349/Tender/2023

Chief Executive Officer,
TNeGA.

“சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்”

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)
METROS, Anna Salai,
Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035

NIT No : CMRL / PHASE-II / SYS / ISA03 / 2023
E-procurement Tender - Funding by Government of Tamil Nadu

International Competitive Bidding
e-TENDER No : ISA03

CMRL invites open e-tender through e-procurement portal from reputed, experienced, financially sound, eligible applicants, who fulfill the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) as detailed below:
“INDEPENDENT SAFETY ASSESSMENT SERVICES FOR SIGNALLING, TRAIN CONTROL SYSTEMS AND PSD SYSTEMS OF CMRL PHASE II”
Please refer websites **www.chennaimetrorail.org** or: **http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app** For further information.
DIPR / 3366 / TENDER / 2023

Director (System & Operations)

சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்

राजस्थान सरकार
कार्यालय जिला कलक्टर, भीलवाड़ा
(कलेक्ट्रेट परिसर प्रथम तल कमरा नम्बर 105 दूरभाष नम्बर 01482-232601)
Website- www.bhilwara.rajasthan.gov.in E-mail:- dm.acc.bhi.rj@nic.in
क्रमांक/लेखा/2022-23/37297 दिनांक:- 01.07.2023

Notice Inviting Bid

Bids under “Mukhyamantri Nihshulk Annapurna Food Packet Scheme” for Supply of High Quality Branded Commodities Edible Refined Oil (Soyabean) 1 Ltr. Poly Pack, Sugar 1 Kg. Pack, Iodized Salt 1 Kg. Pack, Pulses (Channa Dal 1 Kg. Pack), Spices (Red Chili Powder 100 Gram Pack, Coriander Powder 100 Gram Pack, Turmeric Powder 50 Gram Pack), items in a sealed Carry Bag at all FPS Shops including GSS & KVSS working as FPS in Bhilwara, District of Rajasthan, are invited from interest bidders upto 12-07-2023 12:00 Noon. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** and procurement portal (**http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**) of the state.
UBN:- CBL2324GLRC00005

Add’l. District Collector
Bhilwara

DIPR/C/-/2023

INBRIEF

Heavy rain in Gujarat, many villages cut off by floodwater

Heavy rain in several parts of Gujarat lead to flooding, cutting off many villages, officials said on Sunday. Some parts of Valsad and Navsari districts received extremely heavy rain in a 24-hour period till Sunday morning, data from the State Emergency Operation Centre revealed. Several villages were cut off as roads were flooded or had been washed away, with the National and State Disaster Response Forces (NDRF and SDRF) engaged in operations to rescue stranded people, officials said. Jamnagar is one of the worst-affected districts with the police saying that 11 people had died in rain-related incidents since Friday. The India Meteorological Department said heavy rains were likely at in districts of south Gujarat and Saurashtra till Monday morning. PTI

'Work apace on India, Myanmar, Thailand highway'

Around 70% of the work on the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway has been completed, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has said. India, Thailand and Myanmar are working on a 1,400-km-long highway that links the country with Southeast Asia by land to give a boost to trade, business, health, education and tourism ties among the three countries. The highway will connect Moreh in Manipur, India, with Mae Sot in Thailand via Myanmar. While speaking to PTI, Mr. Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways did not provide any details on the timeline for the completion and operationalisation of the trilateral highway. The strategic highway project has been delayed. Earlier, the government was aiming to make the highway operational by December 2019. PTI

MPs on Standing Committee given paper that says UCC is 'not necessary or desirable'

Law and Justice panel will meet on Monday to begin deliberations on the Uniform Civil Code; 2018 consultation paper of 21st Law Commission argued for the codification of all personal laws so that they could be tested on the 'anvil of the Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Constitution'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice, headed by Sushil Modi, BJP MP, will meet on Monday to begin deliberations on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

The panel has circulated the 2018 consultation paper of the 21st Law Commission on the subject to its members. The paper argued against the UCC, saying it is "neither necessary nor desirable".

Representatives from the Legal Affairs Department, Legislative Department and Law Commission have been invited for the meeting.

The consultation paper, "Reform of family law", which the committee is using as the basis for its debate while advocating against the UCC, has argued for the "codification of all personal laws so that prejudices and stereotypes in every one of them would come to light and could be tested on the anvil of Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Constitution".

By the codification of different personal laws, the paper said, one can arrive at certain universal principles that prioritise equity rather than the imposition of a UCC.

The commission then suggested certain measures in marriage and divorce that should be uniformly accepted in the personal laws of all religions.

> It represents government's desperation for legitimate justification of its agenda of polarisation and diversion from its glaring failures
>
> JAIRAM RAMESH
> CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

'Diversionary tactic'

The Congress has also quoted this very document to draft its stand on the issue. Congress general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh, in a statement on June 15, a day after the 22nd Law Commission announced its intention to revisit the subject, pointed to para 1.15 of the paper, which states that a UCC is "neither necessary nor desirable" at this stage. Questioning the Law Commission's decision to revisit the issue, he had said, "This latest attempt represents the Modi government's desperation for legitimate justification of its continuing agenda of polarisation and diversion from its glaring failures."

The Congress does not want to wade into the UCC debate when the government, beyond rhetorical statements, has not come up with any concrete draft Bill or consultative paper on the issue.

"Nothing had happened from June 15 to July 1 over and above what the Congress said. So we stand by the statement made on June 15," Mr. Ramesh said at a press conference after a meeting of the Congress's Parliamentary Strategy Group.

The Congress has four members on the committee and according to sources, they will stick to the party's June 15 position.

Gently down the stream

Exploring Sabarmati: Tourists watch the Akshar river cruise on the Sabarmati river from the Atal Bridge in Ahmedabad after its inauguration by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday. VIJAY SONEJI

Protests against UCC build up in three northeastern States

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A new organisation in Nagaland has threatened to burn down the official quarters of all the 60 legislators if the Assembly succumbs to the Centre's pressure and passes a Bill in support of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

The Nagaland Transparency, Public Rights Advocacy and Direct-Action Organisation said enforcing the UCC would be a violation of the special constitutional rights given to the State and would disrupt the unique customs and traditions of the Naga people.

Recalling the BJP-led government's attempt in 2022 to impose Hindi as the national language, the Rising People's Party of the Christian-majority Nagaland opposed the move to implement the UCC because of the overarching ideology of homogeneity behind it.

The party also said the UCC was in keeping with the push for "one nation, one religion, one language" by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

In Meghalaya, the Hynniewtrep Youth Council representing the matrilineal Khasi community said it would write to the Law Commission against the move to impose the UCC.

"The UCC will affect local customs, laws and even the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution," the council's president, Robert June Kharjahrin, said.

> If they have to implement UCC, it has to be first explained to every citizen of the country
>
> AGNES KHARSHIING
> CSWO PRESIDENT

"The Constitution is for the people of India and not to please some political powers. If they have to implement UCC, it has to be first explained to every citizen of the country. People have to see what their representatives are implementing," Agnes Kharshiing, the president of Civil Society Women's Organisation (CSWO), told presspersons in Shillong.

The opposition to the UCC has been the strongest in Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland, where Christians account for 74.59%, 86.97%, and 87.93%, respectively, of the population, according to the 2011 Census.

The other northeastern States have preferred to go through the draft before reacting.

The northeast is one of the most culturally diverse regions in the world and is home to 220 ethnic communities. Many fear that the UCC would affect their customary laws protected by the Constitution.

Implement UCC through consensus: Mayawati

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Sunday said the party was not opposed to the idea of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC), but did not endorse the way the BJP and its government "seek to implement it in the country". It should be implemented through consensus and awareness, she said.

Ms. Mayawati said in a statement: "Our party is not against the UCC, but we do not support the way the BJP and its government are trying to implement it in the country, where politics of narrow selfishness rather than '*sarvjan hitaaye, sarvjan sukhaye* [for good of everyone, for welfare of everyone]', has taken centre stage which is not correct." The former four-time Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister asked the BJP to focus its attention on problems such as poverty, unemployment, inflation and lack of basic needs such as education and health and rise above "politics of narrow selfishness and religious bias". "If the BJP rises above it, the BSP will endorse the issue; else, will oppose it," she added.

Citing Article 44, the BSP chief said, "The UCC is mentioned in the Constitution, but there is no provision of imposing it forcibly, for which awareness and general consent have been considered best.

Public impact, sensitivity and rights violation: factors that can open SC's portal on Saturdays

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Saturday saw the Supreme Court constitute two separate Benches, one after the other, to hear a plea by activist Teesta Setalvad for interim protection from arrest, signalling that questions of personal liberty cannot wait after the weekend.

A Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and P.K. Mishra heard the case first on Saturday evening, but could not reach a decision. The case was referred to a larger Bench. The Chief Justice of India promptly constituted a three-judge Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai, A.S. Bopanna and Dipankar Datta to hear Ms. Setalvad's petition the same night.

Justice Gavai, when lawyers apologised for "disturbing" them on a Saturday, said "we still have Sunday to read up cases scheduled for Monday [July 3]". Monday is the first working day after the summer vacation and Justice Gavai's Bench has 67 cases listed before it.

Whether a case deserves to be listed urgently during the weekend in the top court is entirely the Chief Justice of India's discretion. Public impact of a particular case, political sensitivity involved, dire risk to a guaranteed right may be some of the factors which guide judges to list a case on a weekend. The past few years, there have been Special Benches constituted during the weekend in the top court to hear cases dealing with subjects such as personal liberty, demolition of a building, pollution in the national capital, State politics and even sexual harassment accusations against a sitting Chief Justice of India.

Teesta Setalvad

On February 4, a Saturday, Justice V. Ramasubramanian and Justice Hrishikesh Roy had held a special sitting to hear a petition challenging an interim order of the Calcutta High Court to demolish a building.

A Special Bench of Justices M.R. Shah and Bela M. Trivedi had assembled on a Saturday, October 15 last year, to suspend a Bombay High Court decision to discharge G.N. Saibaba, a 55-year-old wheelchair bound academic, under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

A Bench led by then Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana had assembled on November 13, 2021, also a Saturday, to urge the Centre and the Delhi government to take "emergency measures", even proposing a two-day lockdown, to bring air quality back to normal in the capital.

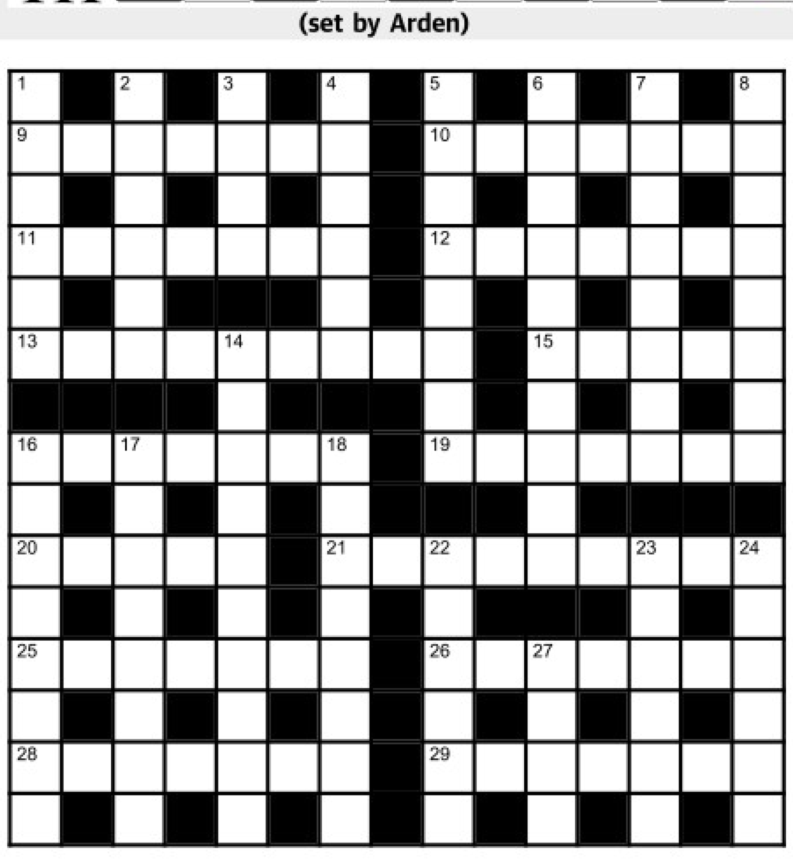
The judges were not spared their Sunday when a three-judge Bench on November 24, 2019 had heard a petition filed by the Congress, the Nationalist Congress Party and the Shiv Sena against the swearing-in of BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis as Maharashtra Chief Minister. But it has not always been a litigant pressing for a hearing on a weekend. On April 20, 2019, the then Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi presided over a hearing to examine allegations of sexual harassment published against him by news portals.

TH CROSSWORD + 13907

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ ***https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn***

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 Difficult one - wake up in short (7)
10 One model and one stripper (7)
11 Small drink, mark it with dots (7)
12 Call for defensive position as grenade goes off (2,5)
13 Change of title, I'm for a recurrent theme (9)
15 Discharge as he's wallowing in drink (5)
16 Called it lawless, criminal stronghold (7)
19 Media platform, most of the time backs the fool (7)
20 With both games here, essentially he rules (5)
21 Hound as such looks lovely (9)
25 They may conduct current under turbulent stream (7)
26 Half the clan, covered plenty of rubbish (7)
28 Right at the top, therefore setter's bad (7)
29 Oriental flower, evenly seen all around (7)

Down

1 Bit of code and law (6)
2 House of jewellery in India (6)
3 Show first man entering - Bang! (4)
4 Look, there is pressure within a group (6)
5 Get very angry to see greeting taken in bad faith (4,1,3)
6 Needle girl about a musical notation (6,4)
7 Socrates upset, was extremely rude (8)
8 Wine and dine, finally it's mere waste - does he recover? (8)
14 Maybe iota in latest control (10)
16 Another claim, one finds energy source (4,4)
17 Sleek outside, just brought up an instrument (8)
18 Uneven and terribly spoiled, getting close to Hyderabad (8)
22 One to support the roof and run later (6)
23 Foreign rule blocking way in N.Ireland (6)
24 Queen's claim of ownership of expensive coat (6)
27 Agreed to accept writing on a city in wilderness (4)

SUDOKU

		9					6	
2		5					1	9
	4			9				
		6		2	9			8
	3	2	7		4	6	9	
4			3	1		2		
				3			7	
9	1					4		3
	2					9		

No.SS5846 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

S	C	A	R	C	E	■	C	O	M	M	A	N	D	O
T	■	R	■	O	■	■	■	I	■	A	■	U	■	C
O	N	T	I	M	E	■	E	N	T	R	A	N	C	E
P	■	I	■	I	■	H	■	K	■	L	■	C	■	L
P	O	S	I	T	R	O	N	■	M	E	X	I	C	O
A	■	T	■	Y	■	L	■	U	■	N	■	O	■	T
G	O	R	D	O	N	S	E	T	T	E	R	■	■	■
E	■	Y	■	F	■	T	■	T	■	D	■	D	■	E
■	■	■	A	N	T	E	M	E	R	I	D	I	E	M
P	■	R	■	A	■	R	■	R	■	E	■	P	■	O
A	D	A	P	T	S	■	P	L	A	T	E	L	E	T
R	■	C	■	I	■	V	■	Y	■	R	■	O	■	I
S	C	H	O	O	N	E	R	■	F	I	L	M	I	C
E	■	E	■	N	■	G	■	■	■	C	■	A	■	O
C	O	L	D	S	N	A	P	■	B	H	U	T	A	N

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	1	6	9	2	7	5	4	8
5	8	7	4	1	6	3	2	9
9	2	4	5	3	8	7	6	1
2	5	3	8	9	1	6	7	4
4	6	9	7	5	2	1	8	3
8	7	1	3	6	4	2	9	5
7	9	2	1	8	3	4	5	6
1	4	5	6	7	9	8	3	2
6	3	8	2	4	5	9	1	7

FAITH

Nadhamuni, great acharya

From time immemorial, saints have composed poems as part of scriptural knowledge to help successive generations realise the true meaning of life. Understanding the divine nature of music and its everlasting impact – even if one forgets the words, humming the tune helps one recall the verse – one Acharya set out to seek, collate, codify and compose them musically.

This was Nadhamuni and his unstinting efforts to trace the lost works of Nammazhwar resulted in the magnum opus, *Nalayira Divya Prabhandham*, Thirukkudanthai Venkatesh said in a discourse.

Nadhamuni was none other than Gajanan, the heavenly servitor, born 1,200 years ago under the Anusha star in the Tamil month of Aani at Kattumannar Koil. Nadhamuni's ancestors were experts in all forms of yoga, particularly Ashtanga yoga. Once, while rendering service at the Veeranarayana Perumal temple in his hometown, he was mesmerised by the rendering of 10 pasurams, starting with *Áravamudhe adiyen* by two visiting Vaishnavites from Melkote. Realising that these were part of a larger tome of lost sacred literature by Vaishnavite preceptor Nammazhwar, Nadhamuni embarked on a journey of tracing them all. Informed by Parakucha Dasa, the sishya of Madura Kavi, who was Nammazhwar's disciple, that only Nammazhwar can help retrieve the slokas, Nadhamuni went into yogic meditation at the tamarind tree in Alwarthirunagari where Nammazhwar was found as a baby. Nammazhwar subsequently appeared before Nadhamuni and gifted him with the works of all the Azhwars, who went on to set the Tamil verses to music.

JERUSALEM

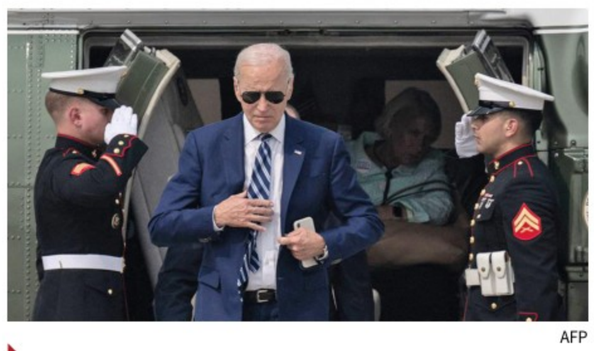
Israel approves buying 25 new F-35 stealth jets from Lockheed Martin

AFP

Israel has approved buying a third squadron of 25 numbers of F-35 fighter jets manufactured by Lockheed Martin in a $3-billion deal. Israel is the only West Asian nation with F-35s, the world's most advanced fighter which is stealth capable and can be used to gather intelligence, strike deep into enemy territory. AFP

WASHINGTON

Biden will travel to U.K., NATO summit, Finland: White House



AFP

U.S. President Joe Biden has scheduled a diplomatic trip to Europe this month with stops in the United Kingdom, at the NATO summit in Lithuania and for meetings in Finland, the White House said. The trip comes as the White House prepares to welcome Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson in Washington. AFP

DAMASCUS

Israel air strikes hit targets in Syria, killing a member of Iran security

AP

Israel carried out air strikes in Syria near the government-held city of Homs, Syrian state media reported on Sunday, and the Israeli Army later said it struck an anti-aircraft battery after rocket fire. A war monitor said the Homs-area strikes killed a member of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. AFP

GAZA CITY

Hamas lets Gaza residents pose with weapons for first time

AP

The armed wing of Gaza's Islamist rulers Hamas put its weapons on display, in a first open event drawing hundreds of Palestinians including children. The event follows the latest surge in Israeli-Palestinian violence, which cost 16 Palestinian and four Israeli lives in the occupied West Bank over six days in late June. AFP

Fifth night of rioting passes in France amid signs of subsiding violence

Young rioters clash with police and target a mayor's residence with a burning car injuring members of his family in the Paris suburb of l'Hay-les-Roses; 17-year-old boy shot to death by police laid to rest in a funeral ceremony in Nanterre

Associated Press
PARIS

Young rioters clashed with the police into early on Sunday and targeted a mayor's home with a burning car, injuring members of his family, as France saw a fifth night of unrest after the police killing of a teenager. Overall violence, however, appeared to lessen from previous nights.

Upended normalcy: A police officer stands by a car which is left upside down on a street in Lyon on Saturday following the riots. AFP

719 arrests

The police made 719 arrests nationwide by early Sunday following a mass security deployment aimed at quelling France's worst social upheaval in years.

The crisis posed a new challenge to President Emmanuel Macron's leadership and exposed deep-seated discontent in low-income neighbourhoods over discrimination and lack of opportunity.

The 17-year-old whose death on Tuesday spawned the anger was laid to rest on Saturday in a Muslim ceremony in Nanterre, a Paris suburb where emotions over his loss remain raw. He has been identified publicly only by his first name, Nahel.

Champs-Elysees protest

As night fell on Saturday, a small crowd gathered on the Champs-Elysees to protest his death and police violence but met hundreds of officers with batons and shields guarding the avenue and its boutiques. In a less chic Paris neighbourhood, protesters set off firecrackers and lit barricades on fire as police shot back with tear gas and stun grenades. A burning car hit the home of the mayor of the Paris suburb of l'Hay-les-Roses.

Mayor Vincent Jeanbrun said his wife and one of his children were injured in the 1.30 a.m. attack.

Nahel's mother told France 5 television that she was angry at the officer who shot her son at a traffic stop, but not at the police in general.

"He saw a little Arab-looking kid. He wanted to take his life," she said. Nahel's family has roots in Algeria.

Russia launches first drone attack on Kyiv in 12 days

Associated Press
KYIV

After a relative lull, Russia launched a drone attack early on Sunday on Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, officials said. It was the first such attack of the war in 12 days.

All of the Iranian-made Shahed exploding drones were detected and shot down, according to Serhii Popko, the head of the Kyiv city administration. In addition to the city itself, the surrounding Kyiv region was targeted. Kyiv regional Governor Ruslan Kravchenko reported that one person was wounded by falling debris from a destroyed drone.

Further south, a 13-year-old boy was wounded in overnight shelling of Ukraine's partially occupied southern Kherson province. . "The child was hospitalised, there is no threat to his life," an official said.

Hero's farewell: People pay their respects next to the coffin of a Ukrainian serviceman in Zaporizhzhia on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

Shelling in Kherson

Shelling of Kherson continued on Sunday morning, wounding four persons in the regional capital, also called Kherson.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's military reported that the most intense fighting continued in Ukraine's industrial east, with attacks focused around Bakhmut, Marinka and Lyman in the country's Donetsk province, where 46 combat clashes took place.

Mass shooting at a party in U.S. leaves two dead, 28 injured

Associated Press
BALTIMORE

Gunfire erupted at a block party in Baltimore on Sunday – killing two persons, wounding 28 and leaving an extensive crime scene that marred the U.S. holiday weekend. Three of the wounded were in critical condition.

Baltimore Police Department Acting Commissioner Richard Worley told reporters there were a total of 30 victims during a press conference at the scene. The shooting took place just after 12.30 a.m. at a block party in the Brooklyn Homes area in the southern part of the city, Mr. Worley said.

The shooting comes amid gatherings around the country leading up to the July Fourth holiday. Elsewhere, a shooting in Kansas left seven persons with gunshot wounds and two more victims hospitalised after being trampled as people rushed out of a nightclub early Sunday morning, police there said.

The violence comes as federal prosecutors in Baltimore this week touted their efforts to reduce violent crime in the city. Police have reported nearly 130 homicides and close to 300 shootings so far this year, though that's down from the same time last year. Authorities have vowed to crack down aggressively on repeat violent offenders.

Back on the streets

Anger 'Is-real': An aerial picture shows Israeli demonstrators raising banners and waving flags during a rally in Tel Aviv to protest the Israeli government's judicial overhaul plan on Saturday. Israelis resumed their protests against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's proposed judicial reform plans, days after he said he had dropped a key provision in the controversial project. AFP

Iran holds off sending Ambassador to Sweden over Koran incident

Reuters
DUBAI

The Swedish govt., in response to a meeting by the OIC, condemned the burning, calling it an Islamophobic act

Iran will refrain from sending a new Ambassador to Sweden in protest over the burning of a Koran outside a mosque in Stockholm, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said on Sunday.

A man tore up and burned a Koran outside Stockholm's central mosque on Wednesday, the first day of the Muslim Id-ul-Azha holidays.

The Swedish Police charged the man who burned the holy book with agitation against an ethnic or national group.

Meanwhile, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, an Islamic grouping of 57 states, said on Sunday collective measures are needed to prevent acts of desecration to the Koran and international law should be used to stop religious hatred after the holy book was burned in a protest in Sweden.

The Sweden government, in its response, on Sunday condemned this week's burning of a Koran outside the Stockholm mosque, calling it an "Islamophobic" act.

U.K. police have new expanded powers to crack down on protests

Associated Press
LONDON

New and expanded powers for the British police took effect on Sunday, including measures targeting activists who stop traffic and major building works with protests.

Authorities have repeatedly condemned environmental protest groups, including Just Stop Oil and Extinction Rebellion, which have sought to raise awareness about the urgency of climate change by staging multiple high-profile protests at the busiest highways and roads. Their protests in recent years often caused serious disruption for motorists.

From Sunday, the police will have powers to move static protests. Critics have argued the toughened laws are a threat to the right to protest, but U.K. officials say the measures were to stop "disruption from a selfish minority."

Mouting costs: The police say protests by groups such as Just Stop Oil and Extinction Rebellion have been a drain on resources. AFP

"The public have had enough of their lives being disrupted by selfish protesters. The mayhem we've seen on our streets has been a scandal," Home Secretary Suella Braverman said.

Authorities say that under the new Public Order Act, protesters found guilty of "tunnelling" – or digging underground tunnels to obstruct the building of new infrastructure works – could face three years in prison. Anyone found guilty of obstructing a major transportation project could be jailed for up to six months.

The law also makes "locking on," or protesters attaching themselves to other people, objects or buildings, a criminal offense.

The police have said it's costly to deal with the protests and that they diverted thousands of officers from other work like dealing with crime.

EU Ambassador regrets lack of progress with China on trade talks

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

The European Union's Ambassador to China expressed regret on Sunday over the lack of "substantial progress" with Beijing on trade talks, as EU countries seek to reduce their economic dependence on the Asian giant.

The European Commission has suspended its efforts to get member states and parliament to ratify an investment agreement reached with China at the end of 2020, after seven years of talks, following differences over human rights in the Muslim-majority region of Xinjiang.

With relations cooling, the EU also decided in May to "readjust" its position towards China to reduce its economic dependence at a time when Beijing is suspected of giving Moscow tacit support for its war in Ukraine.

Jorge Toledo

"I'm sorry to say that we have a dialogue on economic (issues) and trade which has not made any progress, or at least substantial progress, in the last four years," EU Ambassador Jorge Toledo said at a forum in Beijing.

"We want to engage with China, but we need progress, and we need it this year," Mr. Toledo said, adding that a high-level economic dialogue between the two sides would be held in September.

For the EU, China is "simultaneously a partner, a competitor and a systemic rival", he said.

The European Commission unveiled a strategy last month to respond more decisively to economic security risks, with China in particular in its sights.

The Commission put forward proposals in March to secure supplies of materials, such as lithium or nickel, needed for the production of key technologies such as batteries and solar panels.

Germany, France and Italy said last week they would cooperate more closely on the procurement of raw materials as Europe aims to reduce its reliance on imports from countries such as China.

One of the most contentious issues between the EU and China relates to Beijing's ambiguous position on Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

While China does not recognise the territories annexed by Russia in Ukraine, it also has not condemned Moscow's invasion.

ASKUS

N. Sree Kanth

Q I am in the process of selling my old house by the end of this month.
I am proposing to buy a brand-new flat which has been launched just now with this sale amount and my savings along with the loan amount to be borrowed by my brother.
The payment will be made in instalments from now onwards.
However, the agreement for sale/construction etc. will be done next month itself and almost the entire amount from sale of old house will be paid in one year.
Rest [of the amount] will be managed with loan and savings.
The construction is proposed to be completed by January 2027 and possession given in January 2027 .
Please clarify:
Whether I can claim capital gains exemption ?
What is the cut-off date for Long Term Capital Gains?
Whether I can claim capital gains exemption as my old house was held for more than 10 years as also the date of reckoning for capital gains exemption?
R. BHASAKARAN

A Long Term Capital Gains Exemption can be claimed under Section 54 of the Income Tax Act, 1961 in case the period of holding is more than two years.
In your case, as the period of holding is more than 10 years, the capital gains thus arising on the sale of this residential property will be Long Term Capital Gains, enabling you to opt for exemption under Section 54 of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
By date of reckoning, if you mean the date of capital gains trigger, then it is the date of sale of this residential property. It is to be noted that you have to purchase or construct the new residential property within two years or three years respectively from the date of sale of the current residential property in order to avail this exemption.
As you are looking to purchase an under-construction property, you are to ensure that the possession/registration takes place within three years from the date of sale of property
Further, in order to avail exemption, you are to transfer the proceeds from the sale of the current residential property into a "Capital Gains Deposit Scheme" if you are not in a position to invest the entire portion of the Long Term Capital Gains before you file your ITR for the next assessment year (ie before July 2024).

Q I had invested in the National Savings Scheme 1987 (since discontinued).
What is the tax liability if I want to close the account and withdraw the entire deposit now?
N. R. KRISHNASWAMI

A Under Section 80CCA of the Income Tax Act, 1961, any amount standing to the credit of the assessee under the scheme notified by the Central Government (which includes National Savings Scheme) in respect of which a deduction has been allowed together with the interest accrued on such amount is withdrawn in whole or part in any previous year shall be chargeable to tax under "Income from Other Sources". TDS will also be deducted under Section 194EE of the Income Tax Act, 1961 as applicable.

Q When a PPF holder passes away and the nominee gets the whole amount in the account, does she/he have to treat the amount as that year's income and pay Income Tax on it? Is there any method by which the tax liability can be brought down and planned better for the nominee? I am a regular reader of Moneywise and look forward to reading your clarification.
GAYATRI CHANDRASEKHAR

A When a PPF holder passes away, the amount received by the legal heir/nominee is exempt from tax under Section 10 of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
(The writer is a partner with GSS and Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Return and risk: a ballpark but effective indicator

If you are not an expert, you may not have the bandwidth to analyse intricacies of risk. This is where the ballpark indicator comes in handy. You will get an indication of risk sans analysis.

RISK INDICATOR

Joydeep Sen

In investments, risk and returns go hand in hand.

Higher the risk, higher is the return. Or, at least, the expected return. There is a fine difference. The risk you are carrying is of not getting the expected returns. But, the expectation must be commensurate to compensate for the risk. The difference is, since the return is not guaranteed, actual returns may be different from the initial expectations.

> There are plantation schemes that would 'double' money. When the return indication is higher than regular investments, your antennae should rise

For any investment, the return expectation and perception of risk has to evolve from somewhere. That comes from history. Any investment category, unless it is just evolving, has a performance history. That gives you the perspective. The investment you are making today is for the future, and future is by definition unknown. The only fallback we have is history. Longer history makes the data more dependable.

When the risk is high, the expected or indicated return is higher, to compensate and induce you to go for it. If you are not an expert, you may not have the bandwidth to analyse the intricacies. This is where the ballpark indicator comes in handy. The return indication being higher implies the risk is that much higher. You have to decide, up to what level of return indication you want to go. That is where you are setting the risk tolerance for investments. For certain investments, there is a better one-to-one correspondence between risk and return. Sometimes, it is not clear-cut.

Let us look at certain investment assets to understand the concept.

In case of bank deposits and bonds, there is a better one-to-one correspondence between risk and returns. Let us say, a leading nationalised bank is offering a term-deposit rate of 6.5%. Then, there is a small finance bank offering 8%.

Higher risk level

The implication is, the risk level for a deposit in a small finance bank is little higher than a nationalised bank. Now, let us say there is a local cooperative bank offering 9-10%. Not to say the cooperative bank would default, but the risk level in that deposit is relatively higher. The fact that the cooperative bank is offering that rate means they are not able to get deposits at, say, 6.5% or 8%. For bonds also, it is a similar yardstick. Let us say there is a top-rated bond from a blue-chip firm available at an annualised return of 8%. Then, there is an investment grade bond from a mid-rung firm for 11%. This is an investment grade bond, but the risk level is relatively higher. If we go higher up the ladder of risk, there are 'structured credit' products offering, say, 15%, 'venture debt' products offering, say, 20% and 'distressed assets' indicating, say, 25 or 30%.

Here you have to decide where you want to draw the line. You may decide to stick to the top-rated bond at 8%. Or, if you are comfortable with the business house and promoter goodwill of the bond offering 11%, you may take a calculated risk. If you have a diversified portfolio, you would be buying the 11% bond only for a portion of the portfolio. However, if you are not clear about the risks of structured credit or venture debt, it is better to avoid. You got a ballpark idea of the risks involved.

In bonds or debt investments, there is a default risk that can be gauged from the return indicated.

Equity indices

In equity, there is no maturity as in the case of bonds, and the return is a function of market movement. The gauge we can have is indices and their historical performances.

We have leading indices Nifty and Sensex. There are many other indices e.g. mid-cap, small-cap, sectorsetc. We can look at the returns delivered at the index level and the volatility in the returns. That is the nearest proxy, future can be different. However, for equities there is a tangible basis, though not a guarantee. In a growing economy like India, corporates are growing, their revenue and profit are growing and consequently, the earnings which you are paying the price for, is growing.

As mentioned earlier, for investments that have a long track record, it gives confidence about the dependability of the historical data. Gold is an example. Gold as such does not have any productive value.

There is not much of industrial application. However, whenever there is global uncertainty, gold prices get bolstered. When staple investments i.e. equity and bonds look risky, investors globally stock up on gold. For gold also, there is no commitment on returns, it is just the historical track record.

In Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB), there is an interest rate of 2.5%, which is committed. However, you invest in SGBs not just for the 2.5%, but the potential upside in returns from rising gold prices, which is a function of market movement. You have to be careful about any investment that 'guarantees' returns', where the investment basis is not clear. There are plantation schemes that would 'double' money and 'deposit schemes' that operate like Ponzi schemes. When the return indication is higher than regular investments, your antennae should move up.

> For investments that have a long track record, it gives confidence about the dependability of the historical data. Gold is an example. There is no commitment on returns, it is just the historical track record

(The writer is a corporate trainer and author)

Dollar saps gold, silver

PRECIOUSMETALS

B. Krishnakumar

Precious metals lost sheen in June with Comex gold and silver falling to 3-month lows. The strengthening of the U.S. dollar played a key role in keeping the prices under pressure. The U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman indicated the possibility of further interest rate hikes in the near future.

This hawkish tone was another reason behind the subdued price trend,especially during the latter half of June. As a result, precious metals closed on a weak note on a monthly as well as quarterly basis.

After edging past the psychological $2,000-mark in May, Comex gold has since been on a downtrend. Prices fell 2.69% in June to settle at $1,927.80 per ounce. Comex silver lost 2.7% to close at $22.99. Mirroring the global trend, MCX gold closed at ₹58,211, a fall of 3.3%. MCX silver closed 4.2% lower to end at ₹70,030 per kg.

Contrary to expectations, the price of Comex gold failed to rise. Instead, it slid below the negative trigger level of $1,920-$1,925. The breach of this crucial level suggests the short-term trend is negative. Comex gold could fall to the next downside target of $1,880-1,890. A move past $1,980 would invalidate the chances of a fall to $1,890. Similarly, Comex silver fell below the negative trigger level of $22.6, suggesting short-term weakness. This has pushed the price to oversold level which can trigger a brief up move in the price.

After a rise to $23.5-$24, silver price is likely to resume its downtrend and drop to the next downside target of $21.2-$21.5. A move past $25 would invalidate the negative outlook.

In the domestic market, MCX Gold remained subdued, and the price also breached the downside trigger level of ₹59,000. This is a sign of weakness and MCX gold could seek lower levels in the near term. As long as the price stays below ₹60,400, there is a strong case for slide to ₹56,500-56,800 zone.

In sync with the global markets, MCX silver price ruled weak. It also fell below the negative trigger level of ₹70,000, suggesting the short-term trend has turned weak. MCX silver can drop to the immediate target zone of ₹67,000-67,500. This view would be negated if the price rises above ₹74,000.

To summarise, the precious metals breached the crucial downside trigger levels in June. Hence, the short-term trend has turned weak, and the price could head to lower levels. The weak outlook would be valid as long as the price sustains below the positive trigger level mentioned above.

(The author is a Chennai-based Analyst / trader. This is not meant to be a trading or investment advice)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years — Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
HDFC Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
ICICI Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	10.90-18.25	10,846-12,765	2,169-2,553	Up to 2% (min. Rs 1,000 and max. Rs 10,000)
State Bank of India	11.00-15.00	10,871-11,895	2,174-2,379	Up to 1.50% (Rs 1,000-Rs 15,000)
Axis Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
Bank of India	10.25-14.75	10,685-11,829	2,137-2,366	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 5,000)
Canara Bank	10.65-15.65	10,784-12,066	2,157-2,413	Up to 1%
Punjab National Bank^	10.40-16.95	10,772-12,413	2,144-2,483	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.99-16.00	10,621-12,159	2,124-2,432	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.49-14.49	10,994-11,762	2,199-2,352	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	11.40-15.50	10,971-12,027	2,194-2,405	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Upto 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	11.15-12.75	10,909-11,313	2,182-2,263	Up to 1%
South Indian Bank	12.85-20.60	11,338-13,414	2,268-2,683	Up to 2%
UCO Bank	12.45-12.85	11,236-11,338	2,247-2,268	Up to 1%
IDFC First Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3.50%
Bank of Maharashtra	10.00-12.80	10,624-11,325	2,125-2,265	Up to 1%
Karnataka Bank	14.23	11,694	2,399	Up to 2% of loan amount (Min. Rs 2,500 & Max. Rs 8,500)
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3%

Car Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 year — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
Union Bank of India	8.75 - 10.50	10,319 - 10,747	Up to Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	8.75 - 9.60	10,319 - 10,525	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.65 - 12.20	10,294 - 11,173	0.50% (Rs 2,500 - Rs 10,000)
Canara Bank	8.80 - 11.95	10,331 - 11,110	0.25% (Rs 1,000-Rs 5,000), 50% waiver on processing fee till 31 Aug.
Bank of India	8.85 - 10.75	10,343 - 10,809	Up to 0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 5,000)
UCO Bank	8.70 - 10.55	10,307 - 10,759	1% (Up to Rs 1,500)
State Bank of India	8.60 - 9.65	10,282 - 10,538	Rs 1,000-Rs 2,000
IDBI Bank	8.75 - 9.90	10,319 - 10,599	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	8.90 - 13.00	10,355 - 11,377	Up to 0.20% (Rs 1,000-Rs 10,000)
Indian Overseas Bank**	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	Rs 4,500-Rs 8,500
HDFC Bank	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	0.50% (Rs 3,500 - Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	9.37 - 11.79	10,469 - 11,069	0.60% (Rs 3,000 - Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	11.00	10,871	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
South Indian Bank	11.65 - 13.10	11,034 - 11,402	1% (Max: Rs 10,000)
City Union Bank	14.25 - 14.75	11,699 - 11,829	1.25% (Min: Rs 1,000)

**0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holders.*
***0.50% interest rate concession to borrowers with credit scores of 750 and above. Interest rate concession of 0.20% to borrowers for financing Electric 4 Wheelers. 0.20% concession to existing Housing Loan Borrowers.*

Rates and charges as on June 28 — **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

CONTROVERSIAL

England says Bairstow's dismissal against the spirit of cricket

England coach Brendon McCullum and captain Ben Stokes believe Australia broke the spirit of the laws of cricket in the Jonny Bairstow dismissal on Sunday. Both agreed Bairstow was out, technically, but Stokes would have backtracked on appealing for out. "Do I want to win in that manner?" Stokes posed. "The answer for me is no."

HEAT OF THE MOMENT

MCC apologises to Australian team after verbal abuse in Long Room

The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) apologised after the Australian players were verbally abused by the members in Lord's Long Room at the end of the first session at Lord's on Sunday. In the midst of an engaging Test, Australia's Usman Khawaja and David Warner were confronted by spectators in the Long Room.

THRILLING FINISH

Beth Mooney's unbeaten knock helps Australia down England

Australia took a dominant grip of the multi-format women's Ashes with a four-wicket victory in the first T20I of the series on Saturday. **The scores:** England 153/7 in 20 overs (Dunkley 56, Jones 40 n.o., Jonassen 3/25) lost to Australia 154/6 in 19.5 overs (Mooney 61 n.o., McGrath 40).

ECSTATIC

Frenchman Lafay wins second stage of Tour de France

Frenchman Victor Lafay of Cofidis sprung a surprise by beating an elite breakaway to win stage two of the Tour de France at San Sebastian on Sunday. Wout van Aert was second and Tadej Pogacar third in a desperate sprint for the line as Adam Yates retained the overall leader's yellow jersey after the 208.9km rolling run.

Australia survives a Stokes classic, goes 2-0 up after final-day drama

The England captain's blistering 155 and his century stand with Broad rattle the visitors before Cummins' men seal a 43-run win

Fighting fire with fire: Stokes dominated the Aussie attack with some sensational hitting. GETTY IMAGES

THE ASHES

Reuters
LONDON

England captain Ben Stokes' swashbuckling 155 was in vain as Australia won the second Ashes test at Lord's by 43 runs on an extraordinary final day on Sunday to take a 2-0 lead in the five-Test series.

Stokes launched a blistering attack after the controversial dismissal of Jonny Bairstow, smiting nine sixes and nine fours to raise hopes of a repeat of his brilliant match-winning knock against the Australians at Headingley four years ago.

But with 70 runs needed for victory, he skied Josh Hazlewood to wicketkeeper Alex Carey, who had earlier riled him by stumping Bairstow for 10 after the batter left his crease at the end of an over.

The crowd booed loudly and Stokes responded by striking three sixes in an over off Cameron Green to reach his century and was unbeaten on 108 at lunch with England needing another 128 to level the series. He continued the assault after the interval by clubbing Hazlewood for six and was dropped by Steve Smith at deep square leg, the crowd roaring with delight when the former Australia captain – usually one of the safest pairs of hands – let the ball slip out of his grasp.

Stokes welcomed Mitchell Starc back into the attack with two more maximums as he and Stuart Broad shared a century partnership for the seventh wicket, the latter contributing 11.

The England fast bowler played a key role as the drama grew, surviving a series of short-pitched deliveries and trying to rile Carey at every opportunity by holding his bat in the crease at the end of the over and staring intently at the stumps.

Stokes dabbed Green for two to pass 150 off 197 balls before attempting to clear the ropes again and giving Carey a simple catch before leaving the arena to a standing ovation.

Ollie Robinson was caught by Smith off Pat Cummins for one, and Broad's long vigil ended when he was pouched in the deep by Green off Hazlewood for 11. Josh Tongue and James Anderson gamely added an unlikely 27 runs, but Hazlewood bowled the former for 19 to seal victory for the Australians who celebrated gleefully..

SCOREBOARD

Australia — 1st innings: 416 in 100.4 overs.
England — 1st innings: 325 in 76.2 overs.
Australia — 2nd innings: 279 in 101.5 overs.
England — 2nd innings (Target: 371): Zak Crawley c Carey b Starc 3, Ben Duckett c Carey b Hazlewood 83, Ollie Pope b Starc 3, Joe Root c Warner b Cummins 18, Harry Brook b Cummins 4, Ben Stokes c Carey b Hazlewood 155, Jonny Bairstow st. Carey b Green 10, Stuart Broad c Green b Hazlewood 11, Ollie Robinson c Smith b Cummins 1, Josh Tongue b Starc 19, James Anderson (not out) 3; Extras (lb-3, w-10, nb-4): 17; Total (in 81.3 overs): 327.
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-13, 3-41, 4-45, 5-177, 6-193, 7-301, 8-302, 9-302.
Australia bowling: Starc 21.3-2-79-3, Cummins 25-2-69-3, Hazlewood 18-0-80-3, Head 4-0-23-0, Green 13-3-73-1.
Player-of-the-Match: Smith.
Australia won by 43 runs to lead five-Test series 2-0.
Third Test: July 6 to 10 (Headingley).

Having the last laugh: Continental Kings scripted a remarkable victory after starting off badly. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Continental Kings emerge champions

GLOBAL CHESS LEAGUE

Sports Bureau

Triveni Continental Kings emerged the champion of the inaugural Global Chess League in a dramatic fashion in Dubai on Sunday. In the final that went down to the wire, Triveni overcame upGrad Mumbai Masters.

After the scores were level at the end of the rapid and blitz matches – it was 1-1 in both formats – it came down to sudden death.

There was going to be one blitz game at a time, with the draw of lots choosing the board.

If there was a decisive result in the first game, the title also would have been decided.

All the first three games were drawn, however. In the fourth, Triveni's Jonas Buhl Bjerre, the Danish teenager who was having a terrible day, held his nerve to checkmate Javokhir Sindarov who blundered from a drawn position.

It was truly a remarkable victory for Triveni, comprising Levon Aronian, Wei Yi, Yu Yangyi, Kateryna Lagno, Nana Dzagnidze and Sarasadat Khadem, besides Bjerre.

The team had qualified for the final with a great fightback in the league stage, after being placed at bottom.

Nissanka.

Nissanka's ton books Sri Lanka a WC spot

Agence France-Presse
HARARE

Pathum Nissanka's sublime unbeaten 101 propelled Sri Lanka to a place in this year's Cricket World Cup in India as the 1996 winner trounced hosts Zimbabwe by nine wickets on Sunday.

Sri Lanka had bowled out Zimbabwe for a modest 165 inside 33 overs and Nissanka never gave the hosts a hope of victory with his superb innings in their Super Six stage match.

The scores: Zimbabwe 165 in 32.2 overs (Sean Williams 56, Sikandar Raza 31, Maheesh Theekshana 4/25) lost to Sri Lanka 169/1 in 33.1 overs (Pathum Nissanka 101 n.o., Dimuth Karunaratne 30).

Hungry Djokovic all fired up to court a milestone and pull level with 'King of Grass' Federer at Wimbledon

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Novak Djokovic says he is still "hungry" for Grand Slam glory as Wimbledon rivals queue up to hail him as the 'greatest' and his achievements as 'phenomenal'.

Having wrapped up a men's record 23rd Grand Slam title at the French Open, Djokovic now targets an eighth Wimbledon title to equal Roger Federer's mark.

The 36-year-old Serb has won the title at the All England Club on the last four occasions. A fifth successive victory in two weeks' time will take him level with Margaret Court's all-time record of 24 Slams.

He is also bidding to become just the fourth player in history to win eight or more Wimbledon titles after Martina Navratilova (nine), Federer and Helen Wills Moody (eight).

"I still feel hungry for success, for more Grand Slams, more achievements in tennis," said Djokovic. "As long as there's that drive, I know that I'm able to compete at the highest level.

"A few days after Roland Garros, I was already thinking about preparation for grass and what needs to be done," he added.

Worryingly for his rivals, Djokovic has shown no sign of slowing down. Eleven of his 23 Majors have come after he turned 30. Victory in what would be his 35th Grand Slam final on July 16 would crown him as the tournament's oldest champion in the Open era.

"A lot of people are coming up to me and congratulating me, reminding me of the historic success," said Djokovic. "It's very flattering, but at the same time my mind was already directed towards Wimbledon, what's the next Slam, what's the next task."

Djokovic's career-long rival Murray said winning 23 Slams was "phenomenal".

Murray, a former World No. 1, was the last man to defeat Djokovic on Centre Court when he won the first of his two Wimbledon titles in 2013.

"What he's gone on to achieve in the latter stages of his career, it's been incredible. Also doesn't look like he's slowing down," said Murray who trained with Djokovic on Saturday.

"What he did at the French Open was phenomenal."

At the end of 2010, Djokovic's Grand Slam tally consisted solely of the 2008 Australian Open title.

By comparison, Federer had already won 16 of his 20 career Majors while Nadal had racked up nine of his 22. Nine more of Nadal's Slam trophies came in Paris.

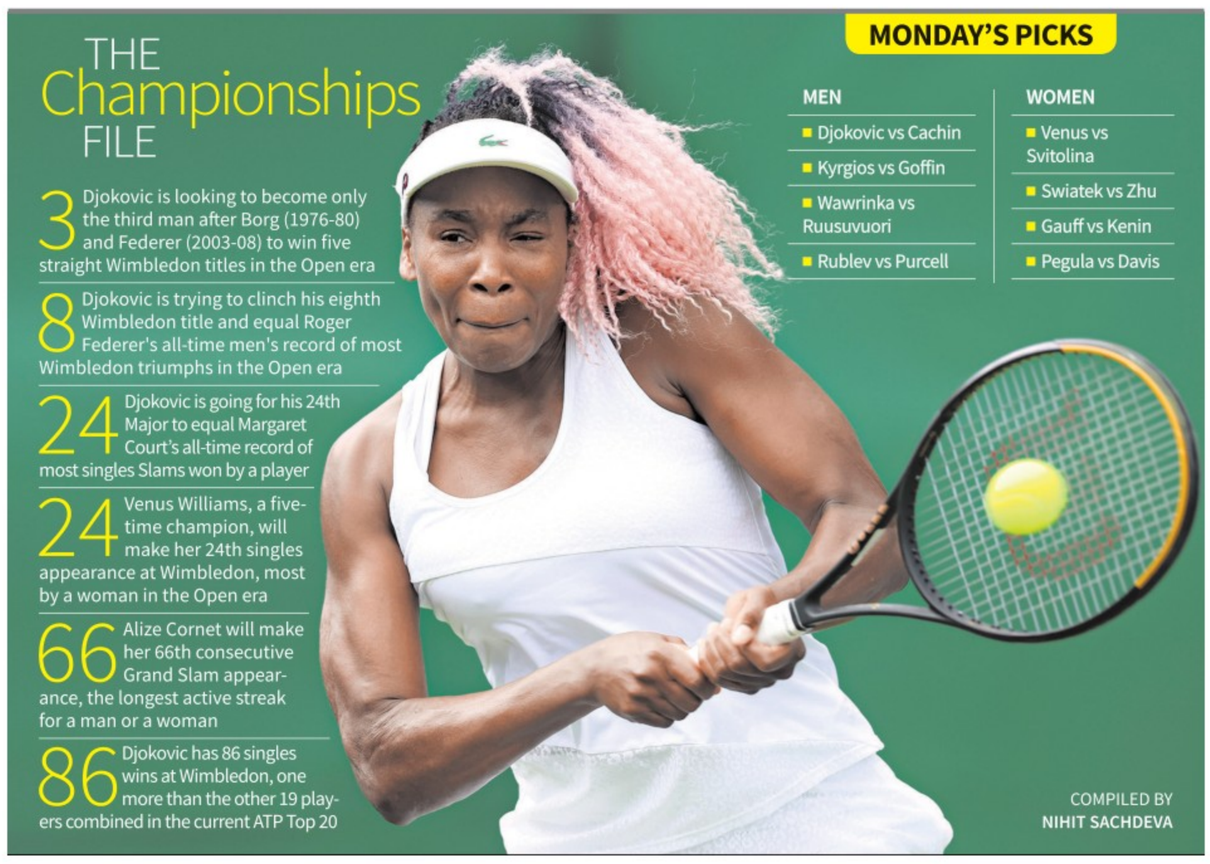
Djokovic's third win at Roland Garros last month made him the first man to win all four Slams on at least three occasions.

"I don't know how is it possible? He doesn't have bad days?" asked world number three Daniil Medvedev. "Actually, he does, like everybody but even on these bad days, he manages to beat the opponent. I don't know how he's doing it.

"That's why he's for me the greatest in the history of tennis."

Should Djokovic successfully defend his Wimbledon title, he will just need to pocket the US Open in September to become the first man since 1969 to claim a calendar Grand Slam.

Djokovic had the same opportunity in 2021 but lost the final in New York – to Medvedev.



India squads for Bangladesh series

Harmanpreet. FILE PHOTO

Sports Bureau

The Indian squads for the three-match T20Is and ODIs against Bangladesh were announced by the BCCI on Sunday. All matches will be played in Mirpur.

The squads:
T20Is: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (vice-capt.), Deepti Sharma, Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Yastika Bhatia (wk), Harleen Deol, Devika Vaidya, Uma Chetry (wk), Amanjot Kaur, S. Meghana, Pooja Vastrakar, Meghna Singh, Anjali Sarvani, Monica Patel, Rashi Kanojiya, Anusha Bareddy, and Minnu Mani.
ODIs: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (vice-capt.), Deepti Sharma, Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Yastika Bhatia (wk), Harleen Deol, Devika Vaidya, Uma Chetry (wk), Amanjot Kaur, Priya Punia, Pooja Vastrakar, Meghna Singh, Anjali Sarvani, Monica Patel, Rashi Kanojiya, Anusha Bareddy, and Sneh Rana.
The schedule:
T20Is: July 9, 11 and 13. Matches start at 1.30 p.m. IST.
ODIs: July 16, 19 and 22. (9 a.m. IST start).

INBRIEF

Deshpande in for injured Sakariya in West Zone squad

Mumbai seam bowler Tushar Deshpande was added to the West Zone squad for Duleep Trophy in place of injured left-arm pacer Chetan Sakariya on Sunday. Saurashtra pacer Sakariya has been ruled out of the tournament due to an elbow injury in his bowling arm.

Austrian Grand Prix to stay in Formula One till 2030

Formula One announced on Sunday that it has signed a three-year contract extension to keep the Austrian Grand Prix on the calendar until 2030. The decision comes only months after the circuit signed a four-year deal until 2027, underlining how it is one of the most popular venues in F1.

Rashid returns to Afghanistan squad for Bangladesh T20Is

Afghanistan named a 16-member squad for the T20I leg of its tour of Bangladesh on Sunday. After missing the majority of the series due to fitness issues, Rashid Khan has finally found his way back to the squad.

The two-game T20I series will be played on July 14 and 16. It will be preceded by an ODI series from 5-11 July. Rashid will also feature in the three-match ODI series against Bangladesh.

Afghanistan squad for T20Is: Rashid Khan (c), Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Hazratullah Zazai, Mohammad Shahzad, Ibrahim Zadran, Mohammad Nabi, Najibullah Zadran, Sediq Atal, Karim Janat, Azmatullah Omarzai, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Naveen-ul-Haq, Wafadar Momand, Farid Ahmad Malik, Noor Ahmad, Mujeeb Ur Rahman.

LIVE TELECAST

CWC Qualifiers: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), Hotstar & FanCode, 12.30 p.m.

The Championships: Star Sports 2, SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3.30 p.m. onwards

TNPL: Star Sports 3 & FanCode, 7.15 p.m.

FIH Pro League: Star Sports First & Hotstar, 9.40 p.m. & 12.10 a.m. (Tuesday)

The elephant in the room for West Indies

CRICKET

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Shimron Hetmyer's ₹8.50 crore annual IPL fees earned from Rajasthan Royals or Andre Russell's ₹16 crore retention fee from Kolkata Knight Riders is an indication how cricket's financial landscape has changed and playing for the West Indies isn't a motivation anymore.

It is the money that matters and has created the biggest hindrance for CWI from at least keeping the top players interested throughout the year.

During the ongoing World Cup qualifiers, West Indies didn't have the services of Hetmyer, Russell or Sunil Narine. All of them are not in the 18 member central contract list released last year by CWI as they had voluntarily opted out to do freelance in T20 leagues.

The last documented match fees for West Indies players, which was published by ESPN Cricinfo in 2017 – was $5750 for Tests, $2300 for ODIs and $1735 for T20Is.

Now there is an official document available on the internet to ascertain whether CWI had revised these figures but if these are the numbers, they earn at least three-and-half to four times less than their Indian counterparts.

Also West Indies players do have a central contract and those who play at least two formats stand to earn at least $240,000 (₹1.97 crore approx) and those playing three formats could earn $300,000 (₹2.5 crore approx) annually. Both the figures include match fees. This is way less compared to what the Indian players receive.

West Indies' ouster from World Cup qualifiers might have disappointed millions but shocked only a few as it was always round the corner. Not many in the West Indies cricket establishment have genuinely tried to address the much larger issue, the proverbial 'elephant in the room' – lack of 'Vitamin M'. If 'M' stands for motivation for representing the unified Caribbean flag, then 'M' also stands for 'Money' and money matters.

Proud of the team's grit, determination: Gurpreet

Cannot save all penalties, but experience, physicality and having good penalty-takers in our side help me perform in high-pressure situations, says the Indian goalkeeper

SAFF CHAMPIONSHIP

Aneesh Dey
BENGALURU

Proud coach: Gurpreet's stellar performance in the match and the penalties took Stimac's India to the final. K. MURALI KUMAR

Time and again, players and coaches of the Indian football team have stressed that the Blue Tigers' stellar run of form was down to the collective and not the individual.

But grand occasions invite grand performances, where a certain player goes that extra mile to stand apart. Against Lebanon in the 2023 SAFF Championship semifinal, the night belonged to Gurpreet Singh Sandhu.

The 31-year-old made five crucial saves, one of which came in the penalty shootout, where he thwarted the spot-kick from Lebanon skipper Hassan Maatouk. Four came in the first half, including a stop in the eighth minute to keep out Zein Al Abdine Farran in a one-on-one situation and another to tip Maatouk over the bar from a freekick.

"Playing at home, at Kanteerava, in national team jersey is always special," Gurpreet said after the match. "Another magical night where the team showed resilience."

On Saturday, Sandhu had to deal with pressure on multiple fronts. First, he shared the collective leadership responsibility with fellow seniors in the absence of coach Stimac. He also had to marshal his defence without the familiar face of Sandesh Jhingan - with whom he shares excellent communication.

"We were shaky in some moments because we were missing Sandesh, but again, credit to Mehtab [Singh] and Anwar [Ali] for making sure we didn't concede. This team is doing well, and the amount of work we have put in the last five to six weeks is showing. Not in technical or tactical terms, because that is something the coaches will decide. But the grit, the determination and the fight are something I am really proud of," added Gurpreet.

Penalty shootouts in high-pressure knockout matches are tricky for goalies, no matter how experienced. A lot of them keep notes, based on the shooting tendencies of opponent players. For Gurpreet, it mostly boils down to experience and the work he puts in during training.

"I am lucky that in our team we have such good penalty-takers and I get to train against them. It also helps me when opportunities like this [Lebanon shootout] come. You can't save all [penalties], but it helps you to know what the penalty-taker is thinking.

"The No. 10 may try to trick you; maybe a centre-back or a centre-forward will decide to shoot one way. Experience helps; physicality helps. If I was 5'4", I wouldn't have been able to save that [Maatouk's] penalty."

The banner says it all! Chhetri and the Bengaluru fans' love affair is all set to continue. K. MURALI KUMAR

Chhetri signs new deal with Bengaluru FC

ISL

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Just two days ago, chatter about India captain and Bengaluru FC stalwart Sunil Chhetri's retirement in the near future had filled the air.

After India edged Lebanon in the SAFF Championship semifinal on Saturday, BFC announced that its leader was not hanging up his boots anytime soon in the most spectacular fashion.

A banner was unfurled at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium, which read: "Bengaluru, I'm going nowhere! – Sunil Chhetri" The star forward stood in the foreground, basking in the limelight as fans' chants reached a crescendo, with his arms outstretched and grinning ear-to-ear.

The 38-year-old's last contract with the 2022-23 Indian Super League finalist had ended in May. With the inking of the new deal – the terms of which are yet to be revealed – Chhetri is set to continue his love affair with a club he joined a decade ago in 2013.

Footballer Fabregas hangs up his boots

Associated Press
LONDON

Former Barcelona and Spain midfielder Cesc Fabregas announced his retirement from football on Saturday at the age of 36 – nearly 20 years after making his debut for Arsenal as a 16-year-old.

The 2010 World Cup winner made the announcement on Twitter, one year into a two-year contract he signed last summer with Italian second-division team Como.

Verstappen dominates from start to finish

AUSTRIAN GP

Associated Press
SPIELBERG

Man on a mission: Verstappen did his title credentials no harm by winning in Austria. GETTY IMAGES

Reigning Formula One champion Max Verstappen continued his relentless march toward a third straight world title with a dominating win at the Austrian GP on Sunday.

Verstappen started from pole position for the fourth straight race and notched his fifth straight win and seventh in nine races so far this season. He increased his championship lead to 81 points over his Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez.

He even got his way to come in two laps from the end for a shot at the fastest lap, despite his team's reluctance to take the risk. He got the bonus point for it on the final lap to complete a perfect weekend after his victory from pole in Saturday's sprint race.

It also took the 25-year-old Dutchman onto 42 F1 wins overall, one ahead of the late Ayrton Senna and alone in fifth place on F1's all-time list of winners.

Charles Leclerc – last year's winner – finished 5.2s behind Verstappen in second place with Red Bull's Sergio Perez third, 17.2 behind. Mercedes's Lewis Hamilton, Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr. and several others received five-second penalties for going off track limits.

The results:
1. Verstappen (Red Bull); 2. Leclerc (Ferrari) +5.155s; 3. Perez (Red Bull) 17.188; 4. Sainz (Ferrari) 21.377; 5. Norris (McLaren) 26.327; 6. Alonso (AstonMartin) 30.317; 7. Hamilton (Mercedes) 39.196; 8. Russell (Mercedes) 48.403; 9. Gasly (Alpine) 57.667; 10. Stroll (Aston Martin) 59.043.; 11. Albon (Williams) 69.767; +1 lap: 12. Ocon (Alpine); 13. Sargeant (Williams); 14. Zhou (Alfa Romeo); 15. de Vries (AlphaTauri); 16. Bottas (Alfa Romeo); 17. Piastri (McLaren); 18. Tsunoda (AlphaTauri); 19. Magnussen (Haas); DNF: Hulkenberg (Haas). **Standings: Drivers':** 1. Verstappen 229; 2. Perez 148; 3. Alonso 129; 4. Hamilton 108; 5. Sainz 86. **Constructors':** 1. Red Bull 377; 2. Mercedes 178; 3. Aston Martin 172; 4. Ferrari 158; 5. Alpine 48.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Facile victory for Rovers FC

Rovers FC defeated New Lucky Star FC 5-2 in the BDFA 'C' division football league here.

The results: Rovers FC bt New Lucky Star FC 5-2; RBI FC bt Jolly Bros FC 2-1; East West FC bt Hindu Socials FC 2-0.

Bangalore Arrows routs Wolvespack 'B'

Bangalore Arrows whipped Wolvespack 'B' 10-0 in the under-14 section of the Head Digital Works Junior Football League organised by D5 Sports Management. In the under-12 section, Raman Sports Academy edged out The Football People 4-3.

Rajendra takes honours

Bengaluru ride R. Rajendra won the opening South Zone round of the FMSCI Reise Indian National Rally Sprint Championship (2W) here on Sunday.

Rajendra recorded the fastest time of the day in the Open Class Up To 550cc, finishing the 10-km course in Sarjapur here in 7:33.59 seconds. Reehana won the title in the Women's Class Up To 260cc.

The results (winners):

Open Class Up to 550cc: R. Rajendra (7:33.59s); **Group A Up To 550cc:** Suhail Ahmed (7:51.57s); **Group B 261 To 400cc:** V.S. Naresh (8:09.32s); **Group B 166 to 260cc:** D. Sachin (7:51.61s); **Group D Up to 260cc:** Asad Khan (8:13.98s); **Group B 131 to 165cc:** Varun Kumar (8:12.09s); **Bullet Class:** V.S. Naresh(8:03.35s); **Scooter Class:** Subramanya (8:39.07s); **Women's Class Up To 260cc:** Reehana (8:49.29s); **Zonal Star:** P. Yogesh (7:53.90s).

All Attractive claims the Chief Minister's Cup

BENGALURU: B. Prithvirajtrained All Attractive (S. John up), won the Chief Minister's Cup, the main event of the races held here on Sunday (July 2). The winner is owned by M/s. Kunal Gupta Stud Farm LLP.

THE RESULTS:

1. TUDOR JET PLATE (DIV. II): GROOVIN (Trevor) 1, Venus (Likith Appu) 2, Princess Jasmine (Vinod Shinde) 3 and Contador (Antony) 4. 7-1/2, Shd and Nose. 1m 13.77s. ₹13 (w), 12, 20 and 33 (p), SHP: 55, THP: 74, FP: 98, Q: 67, Trinella: 875, Exacta: 4,008. Favourite: Groovin. Owners: Mr. Nitin Himmatmal Jain & Mr. Jatin Laxmikant Trivedi. Trainer: M. Rajendra Singh.

2. LITTLEOVER PLATE (DIV. II): PRANA (Akshay K) 1, Nyaya (Trevor) 2, Aldiva (Antony) 3 and Isabelle (S. Saqlain) 4. 6-1/2, 3 and 4-1/4. 1m 13.11s. ₹17 (w), 11, 17 and 13 (p), SHP: 49, THP: 45, FP: 60, Q: 62, Trinella: 187 Exacta: 687. Favourite: Prana. Owner: M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP rep. by Mr Rajendran. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

3. ASTRONOMIC PLATE: WIN MY LUV (Inayat) 1, Golden Time (Akshay K) 2, Extraordinary (Sai Kiran) 3 and Own Legacy (Trevor) 4. 1-1/4, 1-3/4 and 1-1/4. 1m 25.58s. ₹29 (w), 13, 13 and 20 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 50, FP: 78, Q: 52, Trinella: 463, Exacta: 2,196. Favourite: Win My Luv. Owner: Dr. Suresh Chintamaneni. Trainer: Neil Devaney.

4. LITTLEOVER PLATE (DIV. I): RICARDO (Antony) 1, Red Falcon (S. Saqlain) 2, Prophecy (P.S. Chouhan) 3 and Ruby Red (Akshay K) 4. 2-3/4, 2-1/2 and Nk. 1m 13.74s. ₹27 (w), 15, 44 and 11 (p), SHP: 139, THP: 48, FP: 615, Q: 326, Trinella: 1,426, Exacta: 8,679. Favourite: Prophecy. Owners: Mr. Haider Soomar, M/s. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP, Mr. Chandrakanth Kankaria & Mukteshwar Racing LLP. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

5. ADLER PLATE: PAVAROTTI (J.H. Arul) 1, Fondness Of You (Yash) 2, Eridani (C. Umesh) 3 and Tripitaka (S. Saqlain) 4. Not run: Macron. 2-1/4, 1 and 2-1/2. 1m 13.10s. ₹28 (w), 14, 12 and 15 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 49, FP: 90, Q: 42, Trinella: 162, Exacta: 551. Favourite: Pavarotti. Owners: Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt Ltd, Mr. Roopesh S & Mr. Neil Darashah. Trainer: Neil Darashah.

6. KARNATAKA SUB-AREA CUP: YUKAN (Trevor) 1, Andorra (Inayat) 2, Artemis Ignacia (P.S. Chouhan) 3 and Bellator (Shreyas S) 4. 1, 1-3/4 and 1-1/4. 1m 25.04s. ₹17 (w), 12, 15 and 12 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 40, FP: 66, Q: 49, Trinella: 112, Exacta: 254. Favourite: Yukan. Owners: Mr. Marthand Singh Mahindra, Mrs. Rina Mahindra, Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy & Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

7. CHIEF MINISTER'S CUP: ALL ATTRACTIVE (S. John) 1, Cool Rider (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Agnostic (Trevor) 3 and Isnt She Beautiful (S. Saqlain) 4. 3, 1/2 and 1-1/2. 1m 11.57s. ₹99 (w), 22, 13 and 17 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 48, FP: 321, Q: 131, Trinella: 1,476, Exacta: 2,345. Favourite: Cool Rider. Owner: M/s. Kunal Gupta Stud Farm LLP. Trainer: B. Prithviraj.

8. TUDOR JET PLATE (DIV. I): ALWAYS HAPPY (Antony) 1, Opus One (S. Saqlain) 2, Stars Above (S. John) 3 and Solo Prince (Arvind K) 4. 2-1/2, 3/4 and 1-1/2. 1m 14.76s. ₹17 (w), 10, 22 and 21 (p), SHP: 62, THP: 49, FP: 142, Q: 87, Trinella: 550, Exacta: 2,941. Favourite: Always Happy. Owners: M/s. Kunal Gupta Stud Farm LLP, Manjri Horse Breed's Farm Pvt Ltd, Mr. Shantanu Sharma & Mr. Balam Mohla. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

NOTE: After the Stewards enquiry, it was decided to declare General Patton as a non-starter.

Jackpot: ₹1,846 (57 tkts); Runner-up: 556 (81 tkts); Treble (i): 233 (47 tkts); (ii): 294 (63 tkts).

Aryan Nehra claims the 400m freestyle gold

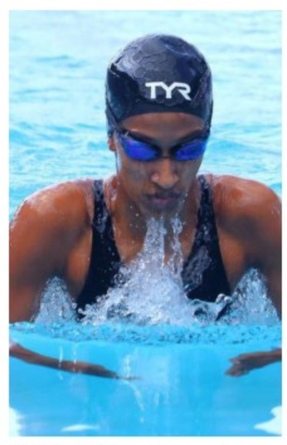
SR NATL. AQUATICS

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

Aryan Nehra of Gujarat clinched the gold with a timing of 3:52.55 in the men's 400m freestyle of the Senior National Aquatics Championship at the Gachibowli Stadium aquatics complex here on Sunday.

Kushagra Rawat of Delhi (3:55.45) and Aneesh S. Gowda of Karnataka (3:57.86) settled for silver and bronze medals respectively.

In women's 200m breaststroke, A.K. Lineysha of Karnataka won the gold with a timing of 2:37.35 while S. Lakshya of Karnataka (2:41.13) and Venika Parikh of Gujarat (2:43.41) won silver and bronze respectively.



Glorious: Lineysha won the women's 200m breaststroke event. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results:

Men: 400m freestyle: 1. Aryan Nehra (Guj) 3:52.55, 2. Kushagra Rawat (Dli) 3:55.45, 3. Aneesh S. Gowda (Kar) 3:57.86.
200m breaststroke: 1. Danush Suresh (TN) 2:20.43, 2. M. Lohith (RSOB) 2:21.70, 3. Manikanta Lakshman (Kar) 2:22.59.
100m backstroke: 1. Sahil Laskar (SSCB) 57.34, 2. Utkarsha S. Patil (Kar) 57.66, 3. Rishabh Das (Maha) 58.19.
50m butterfly: 1. Vridhawal Khade (Maha) 24.33, 2. B. Benedicton Rohit (TN) 24.62, 3. Mihir Ambre (Maha) 24.79.
Women: 400 m freestyle: 1. Bhavya Sachdeva (Dli) 4:28.65, 2. Anna Wala (Maha) 4:30.14, 3. Vritti Agarwal (TS) 4:33.33.
200m breaststroke: 1. A.K. Lineysha (Kar) 2:37.35, 2. S. Lakshya (Kar) 2:41.13, 2. Venika Parikh (Guj) 2:43.41.
100m backstroke: 1. Manna Patel (Guj) 1:03.48, 2. Palak Joshi (Maha) 1:04.32, 3. Suvana C. Baskar (Kar) 1:05.00.
50m butterfly: 1. Nina Venkatesh (Kar) 27.74, 2. Rujuta Khade (Maha) 28.06, 3. Manavi Varma (Kar) 28.31.

Yuki thrilled with his maiden ATP doubles title

The Indian hopes to get to the main draw at Wimbledon after battling with injuries that have eaten considerably into his career making it a start-stop one

TENNIS

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

Hungry for more: Yuki Bhambri with Lloyd Harris will look to build on their success at Mallorca.

Yuki Bhambri has been a mystery in Indian tennis. The former World No. 1 junior, who was ranked a career best 83 in the men's circuit in 2018, has been battling injuries that have considerably eaten into his tennis career. Trying everything to stay healthy and fit, Yuki has been working from scratch in the Futures circuit and Challengers in the last year and a half, building his ranking. He made it to the Grand Slams doubles with Saketh Myneni, both in Melbourne and Paris.

Thus, he was thrilled to win his maiden ATP doubles title with Lloyd Harris of South Africa in Mallorca, Spain, on Saturday.

"I have really been toiling in the Futures and the Challengers to get the rankings up. Finally, to be winning an ATP Tour title is amazing," said Yuki, who was travelling from Spain to England for Wimbledon.

"It was a last-minute partnership with Lloyd whom I had known from my singles days and had trained with him pre-season. Me and Saketh were not getting into this event, as it had a very high cut. We decided to take a break. I just saw Lloyd's name in the entry list for Mallorca.

"I tried to ping him to see if he wanted to play some doubles. He was open to it. It just worked well. Very easy week. A lot of fun on court.

"We didn't have any expectations, played each match on merit and got the results. I am absolutely excited and stoked to have won this title," said the 30-year-old Yuki, ranked No. 75 in doubles. Though five on the alternates list with Saketh for Wimbledon, Yuki hoped to make the draw.

"I am heading there. Saketh is already there. Lot of withdrawals in the past. We never know. Hope we get a chance to play and win a few rounds," said Yuki, who has won 13 Challenger doubles titles, including seven with Saketh in the last two years. Yuki was pleased with the presence of coach M. Balachandran, as part of the doubles initiative in recent times, by which a coach and physio have been supporting the Indian doubles players on the tour.

"Balu sir has been with me the last two weeks. He has been working with me and the rest of the boys on grass. "This week especially was so important to have him, to work on my game when Lloyd was playing his singles. It is a very different view from outside, than when you are playing," observed Yuki.

The 26-year-old Harris qualified and made it to the semifinals of singles. He was particularly delighted to win the doubles title as he lifted Yuki in celebration on winning the final point.

Ferrari tops Formula One team values, says survey

Reuters
LONDON

Despite not winning a Formula One title since 2008, Ferrari is the most valuable of the circuit's 10 teams at $3.13 billion, according to a survey by *Sportico*.

The sports business publication used team revenues, publicly available financial statements and interviews with people across various business aspects of racing to determine team values.

It then cross referenced its findings with other experts in the industry.

Second on the *Sportico* valuation list was Mercedes at $2.7 billion, followed by Red Bull ($2.42 billion), McLaren ($1.56 billion) and Aston Martin ($1.14 billion).

Rounding out the top-10 were Alpine ($1.08 billion), AlphaTauri ($905 million), Alfa Romeo ($815 million), Williams ($795 million) and Haas ($710 million). The collection of 10 teams is worth $15.3 billion.

Ferrari made an F1-best $504 million in revenue for 2022, while turning a $50 million profit.

Mercedes turned the biggest profit last season at $114 million.

Three teams incurred a deficit last season, led by Aston Martin (-$55 million), followed by Williams (-$12 million) and McLaren (-$8 million). Revenue consisted of prize money and sponsorships.

Focus on building a strong structure and financial assistance, says Dilip Tirkey

HOCKEY

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Collaboration: We are telling state units to increase the tournaments, says Tirkey. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As someone who came up the ranks at a time when Indian hockey struggled for funds and facilities, Dilip Tirkey knows the importance of financial support. Unsurprisingly, grassroots development is the Hockey India (HI) president's biggest personal dream.

While the federation started a Grassroots Development Committee last year, HI has now also begun financial assistance to states and districts to revive the organisation at the lowest levels.

Strong structure

"We understand that getting things in order at the bottom is very important to build a strong structure right up to the top. Earlier, many states didn't even have district units.

"We have now asked all of them to register district committees, get them affiliated and conduct school and club-level events, senior and junior tournaments, for both men and women.

"We have already given ₹2 lakh to every state unit and will give ₹1 lakh more on completion of the process. State units will also get ₹10 lakh for organising state championships. We will also provide ₹20,000 to every district to organise school and club events besides sticks, balls and other equipment. We need to first get our house in order, only then can we expect government support at the state and district level," he told *The Hindu*.

Personal experiences

The announcement of cash rewards for winning matches is also borne out of Tirkey's personal experiences.

"When we played, we also thought we were working hard for the country and the game and should get something. Everyone expects financial support. We still cannot compare with cricket but every player expects some reward.

"The main idea behind announcing these rewards is to improve performances – motivate players to do better, together, confidently.

"We do not have the funds right now to start full-time annual contracts but we wanted to make a start somewhere and this is a small first step," the former India captain insisted.

HI gives ₹50,000 for every player and ₹25,000 for every staff member for winning an international game at every level for both men and women.

When asked about holding international events outside Odisha, Tirkey admitted it was a collaborative effort.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my client **Smt.SUMITHA.K** W/o Sri.Jayasheel.G, intends to purchase the immovable Property more fully described & mentioned in the schedule hereunder & hereinafter referred to as SCHEDULE PROPERTY, from its owners, **Smt. SANJEEVAMMA** W/o Sri. Late Bachchappa & **SRI. H B DHANANJAYA,** S/o Sri. Late Bachchappa, both R/at **HONEGALLU Village, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk & District** & in this regard my client has entered into Agreement of Sale.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ITEM No.I
All that piece & parcel of agricultural property bearing **Sy.No.76/7,** Measuring to an extent of **0.28 (Twenty Eight) Guntas plus 0.01 (One) Gunta of Karab Land** totally measuring 0.29 (Twenty Nine) Guntas Situated: **HONEGALLU VILLAGE,** Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapur Taluk, Chikkabalapur District, & bounded on:
East by : Road; **West by :** Property of Sri.Bale Ashwathappa & Sri.Ranganatha Chari; **North by :** Gramatana; **South by :** Property of Smt.Lakshmamma W/o. Sri.Munibachchappa;

ITEM No.II
All that piece & parcel of Agricultural land bearing **Survey No.79/1** situated at **HONEGALLU VILLAGE,** Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk & District, Measuring 0-03 Guntas bounded on:
East by : Land in Sy No.75 belonging to Sri H B Dhananjaya; **West by :** Land belonging to Smt Bale Ashwathamma; **North by:** Land in belonging to Sri Ranganathachari; **South by :** Land in Sy No.79/6 belonging to Sri H B Dhananjaya;

ITEM No.III
All that piece & parcel of agricultural property bearing **Sy.No.79/6,** Measuring to an extent of **0.22.08 (Twenty Two & Half) Guntas plus 0.01 (One) Gunta of Karab Land** totally measuring 0.23.08 (Twenty Three and Half) Guntas Situated: **HONEGALLU VILLAGE,** Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapur Taluk, Chikkabalapur District., bounded on:
East by : Land in Sy No.75 belonging to Sri H B Dhananjaya; **West by :** Land in Sy No.75 belonging to Smt Venkatalakshmamma & Bale Ashwathnarayanappa; **North by :** Land in Sy No.79/1 belonging to Sri H B Dhananjaya; **South by :** Property of Smt Lakshamma W/o Munibachchappa;

ITEM No.IV
All that piece & parcel of Agricultural land bearing **Survey No.79/9,** measuring **0.11.08 Guntas plus 0.00.04 Gunta Karab** situated at **HONEGALLU Village,** Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk & District & bounded on:
East by : Property belonging to Sri.Y. Narayanappa; **West by :** Government Halla (Stream); North by : Land in Sy No.79/10; South by : Property belonging to Sri.Y.Narayanappa;

ITEM No.V
All that piece & parcel of Agricultural land bearing **Survey No.79/10,** situated at **HONEGALLU VILLAGE,** Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk & District, Measuring **0-23.08 Guntas including 0-01 Gunta of Karab** & bounded on:
East by : Land in Sy No.75 belonging to Smt Lakshamma W/o Munibachchappa; **West by :** Government Halla; **North by :** Land in Sy No.78 belonging to Venkatalakshmamma; **South by :** Land in Sy No.79/9 belonging to Sri H B Dhananjaya;

ITEM No.VI
All that piece & parcel of Agricultural land bearing **Survey No.75** totally measuring **0.22.08 (Twenty Two and Half) Guntas** situated at **HONEGALLU VILLAGE,** Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk & District & bounded on:
East by : NH-7 Highway Road; **West by :** Land in Sy No.79/6 belonging to Sri H B Dhananjaya; **North by :** Land in Sy No.76/7 belonging to Sri H B Dhananjaya; **South by :** Property belonging to Smt Lakshmamma W/o Sri.Munibachchappa;

Any person/s having any claim, right, or interest in or to the schedule property or any part thereof through any instrument/s or otherwise is required to forward their claims to the Schedule Property to the undersigned, along with relevant supporting documents thereof, **within 7 (Seven) days** from this date of publication. In the absence of any claims or objections within the above said period, it shall be deemed that, there are no such claims or objections. If there are any claims or objections which have not been made within the said period, it shall be deemed to have been waived off by such persons and a valid and binding conveyance will be executed and registered in my client's favour without any further reference in this regard.

ADVOCATE - NAGARJUN N,
248, 2nd Floor, 100 Feet Main Road, Near Horamavu Signal, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru-560043.
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THE HINDU GROUP

Fire on the mountain

Manipur's war of attrition might be rooted in land issues but why has the government allowed it to rage on? **A report from the battle zone.**

Banaras waits for verdict
The petitioners in the Shringar Gauri-Gyanvapi mosque case in Banaras bicker among themselves. **The next court hearing is on July 6.**

A Benodebehari scroll made a century ago was found recently. The 13-metre-long work titled Scenes from Santiniketan was on show along with other masterpieces.

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CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, KOLLEGALA
Ph. No. : 08224-252016, Email : itstaff_ulb_kollegal@yahoo.co.in
Website : www.kollegalacity.mrc.gov.in

No. KGL/SWM/LEGACY/2023-24 Date : 19-06-2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through The Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal

Under the Swachh Bharath Mission 2.0 project and 15th Finance, a tender has been invited through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal as per the **Karnataka Standard Tender Document KW-4** (Karnataka Public Procurement Transparency Directions 1999-2000 Act 2000). Eligible tenderers can participate in the tender through the portal http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sl. No.	Work Details	Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	Amount of E.M.D.
01.	Bio mining / Bio remediation of Legacy waste Deposited at Landfill site, survey No. 601/A of Mudigunda (Madumallai Gudda) Kollegal City Muncipal Council **(DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT541)**	179.85	315750.00

1. Last Date for Submission of Tender (Through e-portal Only) : **24-07-2023 Upto 5.30 pm** Date of opening of Technical bid Dated : **26-07-2023 after 11.00 am**
2. Further details can be obtained from the website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and from the office of Municipal Commissioner, City Muncipal Council, Kollegala or Assistant Executive Engineer (Environment) City Muncipal Council, Kollegala.
3. **Tenderers Shall submit the tender amount exclusive of GST only.**
4. Any amendments / addendums will be published on the portal only and the tenderers shall abide by all the conditions mentioned in the tender documents.

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner
CMC, Kollegala

Sd/- Administrator
CMC, Kollegala

DIPR : CHANAGAR:50:2023-24

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from registered Agencies for the following works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (in Rs.)	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	Central	BWSSB/EEC/PB/499/2023-24 Date: 23.06.2023	Rs.7,32,226/- / Rs.21,610/-	10.07.2023 upto 5:00 PM	11.07.2023 after 5:01 PM

Sd/- **Executive Engineer (Central)**

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru - 560009

2	WWM-N K&T Valley	BWSSB/EW(N)KT/PB/135/ 2023-24, Date: 27.06.2023	Rs.58.40 Lakhs / Rs.1.378 Lakhs	10.07.2023 upto 4:00 PM	11.07.2023 at 4:00 PM
3		BWSSB/EW(N)KT/PB/140/ 2023-24, Date: 01.07.2023	Rs.58.75 Lakhs / Rs.1.3864 Lakhs	09.07.2023 upto 4:30 PM	10.07.2023 at 4:30 PM
4		BWSSB/EW(N)KT/PB/142/ 2023-24, Date: 01.07.2023	Rs.75.32 Lakhs / Rs.1.78 Lakhs	09.07.2023 upto 4:00 PM	10.07.2023 at 4:00 PM

Sd/- **Executive Engineer (WWM-N) K&T Valley**

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru - 560009

5	MIS	BWSSB/EMS/TE/PB/AE/138/2023-24 Dt: 30.06.2023 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs.31,97,526/- / Rs.32,000/-	13.07.2023 upto 4:00 PM	15.07.2023 at 4:00 PM
6		BWSSB/EMS/TE/PB/AE/140/2023-24 Date: 30.06.2023 (3rd Call)	Rs.22,84,802/- / Rs.45,700/-		

Sd/- **Executive Engineer (MIS)**

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurment process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/BCPL/426/2023-24

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The Republic
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